



AGAWAM Advertiser



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Volume XIX Number 14

"Your Hometown Newspaper"

April 4, 1996

16-Foot Wooden Cross At Valley Community



MEMBERS OF THE VALLEY COMMUNITY CHURCH erected a large 16-foot wooden cross on church grounds which sets high on the hill at 152 South Westfield Street, Feeding Hills. A service will be conducted at 11:45 a.m. on Good Friday and at 6:00 a.m. on Easter Sunday to change the purple Lenten cloth. All members of the community are welcome to attend.

Teddy Bears Bear It All...



A TEDDY BEAR DRIVE was held at Feeding Hills Congregational Church on Saturday, March 30th. Pictured with some of the stuffed bears are, from left - Richard Rozanski, Sarah Traficante, Courtney Donaldson, and Victoria Urrea. RELATED PHOTO & STORY IN CHURCH SECTION. Advertiser News photo by Jack Devine.

Doubling Space At Ag. Library Now In The Works

by Kathy Cassanelli
News Editor

If the town is successful in applying for state and federal grants, the Agawam Public Library will be expanded to more than twice its present size.

At Monday night's Town Council meeting, the nine members present gave their unanimous approval to Mayor Christopher C. Johnson's request to apply for a grant to cover one-third of the cost of building a library addition.

Councilor Joseph Langone was absent due to an illness, and Councilor Thomas Ennis was not able to attend.

Using the preliminary drawings prepared by the architectural firm Galliher Baier and Best, Johnson took the council on a "tour" of the new floor plan being proposed to relieve the crowded conditions existing at the library.

Currently, circulation at the library is up 235 percent over the circulation rate in 1986, and Agawam's per capita circulation rate is 65 percent higher than the state average.

Some of the highlights of the expansion project include more seating for library patrons, an area set aside for children's programming, a children's bathroom with changing area, a young adult area for students to work in, an elevator to make the building handicap accessible, expanded research and study areas, and 65 additional parking places.

The plan for renovation and expansion calls for a two-story addition to the front of the existing building. The addition will be cut into the existing slope so that the first floor of the addition will connect to the basement of the library, and the second floor of the addition will connect to the existing first floor of the building.

The preliminary cost estimate for the library expansion project is \$4.5 million. If the town is successful in obtaining an estimated \$1.725 million in grant funding, the town's share of the cost will be \$2.775 million. Assuming a bond schedule of 20 years at six percent interest, the total cost to the town will be \$4,523,250.

Johnson said the town cannot afford the project without assistance from the state. He said if the town does not apply for this round of grant funding, it will not have a realistic opportunity to expand the library in the near future. The deadline for applying for the grant is April 10th.

Library Director Donna Campbell said, "We've been working since 1987 to expand the library. I don't think we should miss this opportunity."

Ms. Campbell said she would appreciate letters of support from the councilors and from the public to include in the grant application packet.

Council President Nancy Thompson said residents could write letters stating that they use the library and feel the expansion is needed. "This is a very competitive grant and those letters mean a lot."

"Timing Is Essential..."

Councilor Gary Suffriti pointed out that it has been 10 years since the grant has been available. "Timing is essential. If we do not receive the grant, we will not be able to go forward with the addition."

Councilor Edward Caba said he hoped the School Department would not feel shortchanged. "There are a lot of areas some people feel are more critical. However, we have an excellent opportunity to cash in on this grant and we have to set aside other needs."

SEE LIBRARY EXPANSION - Page 2...

LIBRARY EXPANSION - from Page 1...

Councilors were unanimous in their praise of the work being done by the library staff and in their agreement that more space is needed to serve the needs of the community.

Councilor David Skolnick said the library is "truly a jewel in our community but was too small to function properly. We definitely need more space to take care of our residents as we continue to grow," Skolnick said.

Councilor George Bitzas said the town was in a Renaissance period despite the criticism of a handful of people. Citing the school expansion plans, the purchase of the Tuckahoe Turf Farm, the golf course, and the construction of the Early Childhood Center, Bitzas said the town has accomplished a lot and should continue its Renaissance by expanding the library.

Built in 1979 with a federal grant, the present library is 15,000 square feet and is 80 percent of the size originally called for. The size of the library was reduced to correspond with a reduction in the grant during the design phase of the project.

The 18,600-square-foot addition being proposed will more than double the space at the library.

LEGAL NOTICE**LEGAL NOTICE****TOWN OF AGAWAM
PUBLIC HEARING**

In accordance with Article 8, Section 8-1(b) of the Agawam Town Charter, the Agawam Town Council will conduct a public hearing on Monday, April 1, 1996 at 7:30 P.M. at the Agawam Middle School, 68 Main Street, Agawam, MA in regards to a request that the Agawam Town Council place on its agenda and approve a non-binding referendum question to be placed on the ballot at the next regular or special town election

Ursula Retzler
Clerk of the Council

Published: April 4, 1996

For all the local news, you turn to us!

Assistant Solicitor Defends Town's Position Against Berkshire Power Court Request

by Kathy Cassanelli
News Editor

In a memorandum of law filed in superior court last week, Assistant Town Solicitor Charles J. Sclafani, Jr., defended the Zoning Board of Appeals' (ZBA) denial of a special permit for the Berkshire Power project.

In a 22-page document, Sclafani says Berkshire Power's request for summary judgment (a ruling by the judge without a trial) in its appeal of the ZBA decision should be denied.

Sclafani said the position taken by BP attorneys in their request for summary judgment is contradicted by the company's own prior legal arguments.

Sclafani argued that BP "treated their request and application for approval of the project as a special permit; filed numerous documents admitting that it required a special permit from the Agawam Zoning Board of Appeals for approval of the project; (and) willingly participated in procedures consistent with its application for approval of a special permit."

Sclafani maintained that "Berkshire submitted several memorandums of law zealously advocating and supporting its position that its application for a special permit was necessary and required."

Moreover, Sclafani charged that in their request for summary judgment, Berkshire Power "pur-

posely failed to mention the fact that it prepared and filed" the application requesting a special permit.

On January 2, 1996, the ZBA denied the request for a special permit to exceed the 40-foot height limitation in a 2-1 vote. Unanimous approval of the three-member ZBA is required for a special permit under the Zoning Act.

Sclafani maintained that both the Zoning Act and the legislative history of the Zoning Act "support the board's (ZBA) conclusion that Berkshire's requested approval constitutes a special permit. Case law supports the board's determination that the Zoning Act is applicable and that Berkshire's application requires special permit approval," he said.

Sclafani refuted Berkshire's claim that its project is a use allowed as a right by the zoning bylaws. "The use allowed as of right in the Industrial B District is an industrial use. However, nowhere in the Agawam ordinances and bylaws does it state that gas fired electric power plants with buildings and numerous appurtenant structures in excess of 40 feet are allowed as of right."

Sclafani concluded that the ZBA has not issued the necessary votes to approve the project, and that Berkshire Power's request for a ruling in their favor as a matter of law should be denied.

Keenan To Kick-Off Reelection Campaign With April 24th Pasta Dinner

Representative Dan Keenan has issued an invitation to the residents of the Third Hampden District to join with him and his family as he kicks off his reelection campaign to the State House of Representatives.

Representative Keenan has scheduled a pasta dinner for Wednesday, April 24, 1996, at the Polish

American Club on Southwick Street in Feeding Hills. The dinner will be served from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m.

The donation is \$5 per ticket, and tickets for seniors and children under 12 years of age are \$3. Tickets will be available at the door.



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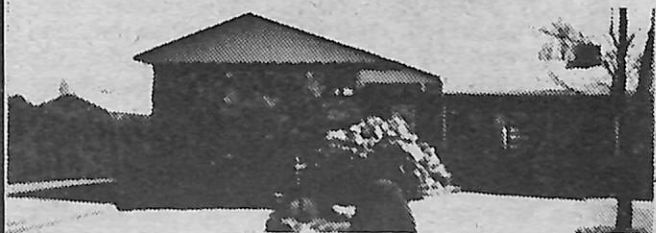


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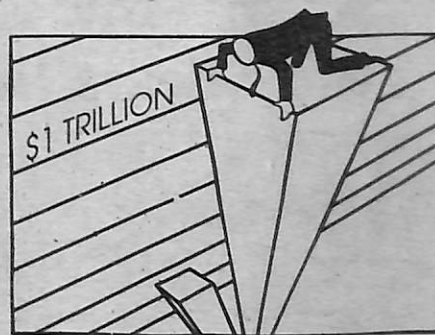
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On The Avenue

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900 Memorial Avenue

West Springfield

Closing At 4:00 P.M.
Easter Sunday

ON THE AVENUE'S LUNCHEON MENU

APPETIZERS

Shrimp Cocktail - **\$4.95**
Crispy Chicken Wings - **\$4.95**
Fried Clams Strips - **\$5.25**
Fried Mozzarella - **\$4.95**

Chicken Tenders - **\$4.95**
Onion Rings - **\$3.25**
French Fries - **\$2.95**
Cup of Soup or House Salad - **\$1.75**

Daily Specials Lunch And Dinner

ON THE AVENUE'S LUNCHEON BUFFET

Two hot Entrees daily, Rolls, Fruit, Soup & Salad Bar - **\$5.99**
Chef Salad - **\$4.95**

Hearty Sandwiches Served w/chips & pickle

TUNA - Made with celery slices and special seasoning. **\$3.25**
TURKEY CLUB - Hefty portion of Turkey Breast, Bacon & Lettuce, Tomato & Mayo. **\$4.25**
CHICKEN SALAD - A Heaping portion made fresh daily. **\$3.25**

GRILLED CHICKEN - 6 oz. Breast marinated and served on a water roll. **\$3.75**

PRIME RIB FRENCH DIP - Served on a French Roll w/au jus on the side. **\$4.50**

FRESH FISHWICH - Beer Battered Fish of the day. **\$3.75**
GRILLED CHEESE - Simple & tasty. **\$2.50**
HAMBURGER - Patties made daily. **\$3.00** w/cheese **\$3.25**

LITE ENTREES

ON THE AVENUE'S FISH & CHIPS - A Beer Battered Fresh Fish deep Fried and served w/Fries & Cole Slaw. **\$5.50**
TENDERLOIN TIPS - Tasty chunks of Tenderloin Sautéed in our special Avenue sauce served w/Rice. **\$6.75**

GRILLED CHICKEN - Marinated in an Italian dressing, served w/Rice. **\$5.25**
BONELESS PORK CHOP - Grilled with our house seasoning served w/Rice. **\$5.75**
HOT TURKEY - Over Rice & Gravy served w/Cranberry. **\$4.95**

Our Dinner Menu Begins... ONE IF BY LAND

It will be our pleasure to serve any of our "Land" selections either "Traditionally, Blackened or "Avenue" style.

Filet Mignon (10 oz.) - **\$13.95**
Top Sirloin (10 oz.) - **\$10.50**
New York Strip Sirloin (10 oz.) - **\$12.95**
Pork Chop Center Cuts - **\$9.95**

Grilled Chicken Breast - **\$9.95**
Prime Rib
16 oz. King Cut - **\$15.95**
10 oz. Regular Cut - **\$11.95**

TWO IF BY SEA

Fresh Baked Fish of the day - **\$9.95**
A flaky fillet layered with our seasoned bread crumbs.
Fresh Baked Sea Scallops - **\$10.95**
Served piping hot with a touch of seasoned bread crumbs.
Baked Stuffed Shrimp - **\$12.95**
Jumbo white shrimp fillet with our crabmeat stuffing.

Grilled Swordfish - **\$11.95**
Traditional or Cajun style.
Also available Fried or Blackened
Fish - **\$7.95**, Scallops - **\$8.95**, or Shrimp - **\$10.95**
Fresh Lobsters — MARKET PRICE
Steamed, Baked Stuffed, "Avenue" Style, "Lazy Man's Lobster" upon request

ON THE AVENUE'S DILEMMA

Choose any two from the Land or the Sea

Filet Mignon
Top Sirloin
New York Strip Sirloin
Grilled Chicken
Prime Rib

Baked Stuffed Shrimp
Baked Sea Scallops
Grilled Swordfish
Baked Stuffed Half Lobster
MARKET PRICE

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Good Sunday, April 7th

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\$5.95 KIDS 12 And Under

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We serve one complimentary Bloody Mary or Mimosas with brunch * Must be 21 yrs. old (With coupon only)

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The Easter
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Monday—Thursday 11:30 A.M. - 10:00 P.M.

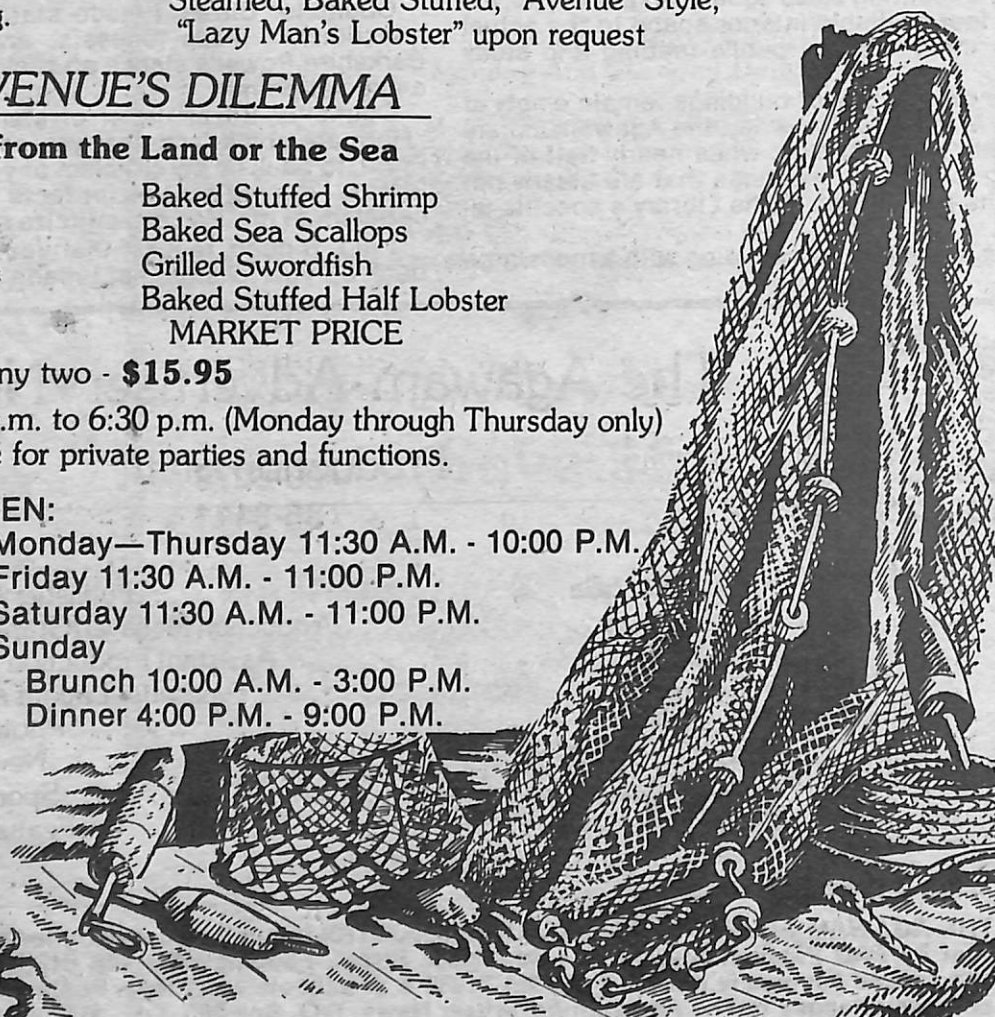
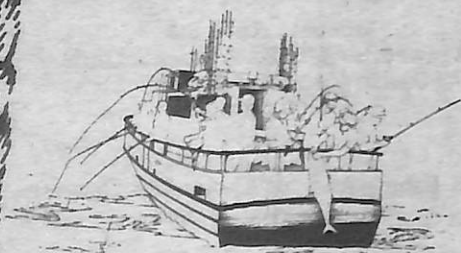
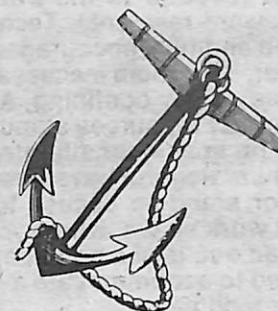
Friday 11:30 A.M. - 11:00 P.M.

Saturday 11:30 A.M. - 11:00 P.M.

Sunday

Brunch 10:00 A.M. - 3:00 P.M.

Dinner 4:00 P.M. - 9:00 P.M.



Commentary...

Granger Students Express Positives At School Committee's Speak Time

by Kathy Cassanelli
News Editor

When the parking spaces along the driveway at the Middle School aren't enough and the cars spill over into the back parking lot on a Tuesday evening when the School Committee is meeting, it usually means a hot topic is on the agenda and the sign-up sheet for Citizen Speak Time will be full. Especially when it's budget time.

As anyone who regularly attends School Committee meetings knows, the murmuring heard as you approach the auditorium doors is a dead giveaway that people are readying to address their concerns on the state of education and the ever-present problems of a School Budget stretched to the limit.

What a pleasant surprise at the last School Committee meeting to open the auditorium doors

and find the murmurs were the excited voices of children, parents, and teachers getting ready to let the whole town in on the wonderful things going on in their school.

In the first of a promised series of a celebration of the work done daily by Agawam's schoolchildren, Granger School Principal Phyllis Lewis started off the presentation with the Granger pledge recited each morning by the children and teachers as they get down to the serious work of giving and receiving an education.

"We are proud to be at Granger School. We are proud to do our best. We are proud to act our best. Have a great day!"

From kindergarten to the fourth grade, teachers, parents, and students gave the School

Committee a glimpse into some of the exciting projects and learning opportunities that make Granger School a place for students to Drop Everything and Read, learn about Native American Culture, practice their reading and writing skills using literature-based materials, discover just what a million means, and explore the ubiquitous presence of bacteria in our daily lives.

Bravo! Granger staff, students, and parents. You're a tough act to follow, but the smart money is betting the other schools will be up to the challenge.

Stay tuned for more good news from the trenches—School Committee meetings don't get much better than this!



We Should Support The Growth Of Our Public Library

To The Editor:

As a patron of the Agawam Public Library, let me begin by commending the excellent staff. Their patience and helpfulness under the current chaotic atmosphere deserve recognition.

The situation must improve. While the staff is not large, I'm sure it's becoming increasingly difficult to respond to the ever-changing needs of the Agawam residents. Technology is heavily integrated and fully encouraged in the library forum. However, the room necessary to utilize what is available is very confining. As a student myself, I find the vast resources stimulating, as well as difficult. The space constraints are obvious.

Card catalogues have been relocated to make room for stand-up access to remote databases. Project work space, where you may actually need to spread out, is at a premium. Very few tables are expected to accommodate all of the students who use the facilities.

Anyone trying to do research, whether child or adult, is confined, disturbed, and encouraged by the constant stimulation. No longer is the library a place of solitude—a place for peace and quiet where you can concentrate. It's too crowded and too busy for that!

Also, there must be a justification somewhere for only allocating 5,800 square feet of the 10,100 square feet available interior space to the actual "library materials and public reading and study areas."

While other "public" buildings remain empty at the end of their business day, the Agawam Library continues to be stunted, while nearly half of the building is used for meetings that are clearly not under the jurisdiction of the Library's specific interests.

Is this the only public building with a room large

enough to hold these meetings? Isn't it about time that this space be reallocated to the Library itself?

The message here is clear. The Agawam Library serves our community within a very small work space. For our students to fully utilize all that is readily available, larger facilities are definitely needed.

The teachers within the Agawam school system encourage our children to utilize all that is offered. We, as parents and residents of Agawam, should fully support that and any effort to enhance our educational system.

Our library is one of the best in the area. Let's support the growth that it definitely needs, for now and into the future.

Sincerely,
Sandy Gingras
Feeding Hills

Bitzas Criticized Again In Ongoing Spat With Resident

To The Editor:

In the March 7th edition of *The AAN*, Agawam Town Councilor George Bitzas accused me of "...attacking with our usual misinformation and false accusations..." In my opinion, Councilor Bitzas has accused me of lying.

I requested that Councilor Bitzas substantiate his attack of me with facts. What exactly did I say that confirms your opinion that I made "false accusations," ...that I lied?

In a feeble attempt to respond, in *The AAN* of March 28th, Councilor Bitzas was so far off the point that it was almost amusing. In an attempt to come off as the knight in shining armor, charging to the rescue of *The AAN*, Councilor Bitzas resembled more the hapless black knight in the film "Monty Python and the Holy Grail." Instead of supplying facts regarding the "false accusations," Councilor Bitzas rambled on about my so-called "praise or criticism" of *The AAN*.

Councilor Bitzas, I made statements, I asked questions, I made requests, and I questioned Berkshire Power's stance on their application for a special permit.

Councilor Bitzas' letter of March 28th states, "Here are some facts that you asked me for, Mr. Forni, to back up my criticism of you." Councilor Bitzas, I did not ask you for facts to back up your criticism of me. You can criticize me all you want!

I did, though, request that you supply facts to back up your charge that I made and supplied

"...misinformation and false accusations." On this point, you supplied no facts.

This problem we have has nothing to do with *The AAN* or Kathy Cassanelli.

Here's my next proposal. I challenge you to sit down with me one-on-one, to prove your accusations of me. If you'd rather not come alone, then bring Chris Johnson, Ken Roberts, and all his Berkshire Power associates, and the entire CAT group if you want. Prove your claim that I made false accusations.

Finally, you stated "I am tired and the people of Agawam are tired of reading the same thing over and over from you the past year." Since when have you become the mouthpiece for the people of Agawam? When did you get the idea that you have your finger on the pulse of this town? Remember, you voted against a referendum question regarding the power plant on the ballot.

Frankly, I've talked to quite a few people who enjoy and look forward to reading about our little spat every week. I look forward to your response.

Sincerely,
Ken Forni
Agawam

SEE LETTERS - Page 5...

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Sponsored By
COLONIAL FUNERAL HOME

Monday, April 8th
Benefit "Dinner Dance"
for Katelynn Battista
At Chez Josef, Agawam
Cocktail hour, 6 to 7 p.m.;
Ziti & meatball buffet, 7 p.m.
For tix - 736-6896, 739-5125, or 747-9674

Monday, April 8th
Agawam's Catholic Women's Club
At Parish Ctr., St. John's Church
8:00 p.m.

Tuesday, April 9th
AHS Band's Annual Scholarship Concert
At AHS Auditorium
7:00 p.m.
Tickets: \$5 (to benefit two band
scholarships in memory of Lisa Ziegert)
Call 789-1400, ext. 410 for more info

Wednesday, April 10th
Agawam Lioness Club's ziti & meatball
supper at the Agawam Lions Den (on
the grounds of the Big E, W. Spfld.)
From 4:30 to 7:00 p.m.
Adults, \$4.50; kids under 12, \$2.50

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LETTERS - from Page 4...

CCBA Acknowledges Support Throughout Community

To The Editor:

The Executive Board of the Concerned Citizens and Businesses of Agawam (CCBA) wishes to acknowledge the more than 75 citizens and business owners who attended a recent meeting.

The meeting was hosted by CCBA member Crestview Country Club on Wednesday, March 20, 1996.

A list of facts researched by CCBA volunteers was handed out to attendees, including members of the CAT group present. This list of facts is available to any citizen by calling the CCBA at 789-2709.

Of particular note were guest speakers Tom Minor of the Connecticut River Watershed Council and Chris Bathurst of Clean Water Action. These fine gentlemen and the organizations they represent encourage and support the CCBA's efforts to maintain the character of Agawam and the quality of our earth's environment.

We thank our numerous volunteers and their families. For better than a year, we have all worn many hats.

Attending meetings, parenting, working a full-time job (and some of us, a second job) doing research on the issue, raising funds for our cause, finding time to enjoy life and operating our businesses, to name a few. Whether we live in Feeding Hills, Agawam Center, near the Connecticut border, or own a business here, we are united and proud.

We all have the same goal: to prevent the construction of a proposed power plant by Berkshire Power in our town.

Thanks again to all those who collected over 2,000 ballot question signatures in last summer's hot sun. To those who make phone calls to other citizens and businesses to relay important information, thank you.

To those individuals who speak before the City Council for the good of us all, we support you. A genuine thanks to the diligent staff behind the scenes and the silent majority who support the efforts of the CCBA. Thank you to those people who pass by us in the grocery store or in church and say "Keep up the good work."

And last, but certainly not least, thank you to

those citizens and businesses who have given financial support because they, like us, believe in a higher quality of life more precious than any amount of greed or power.

Sincerely,

The Executive Board of the CCBA
Ken Forni, President & Spokesperson
Jonathan Gould, Vice President &
Director of Country Estates

Kevin Vitale, Treasurer &
General Manager of Crestview Country Club

Susan Amabile, Fundraising

Donna Jago, Citizen Network

Karl Stieg, Research

Mike Delnegro, Research

Pete Longo, Research

Louis Russo, Research

Curt Freedman, P.E.; Technical Spokesperson
Bernie Goodman, Business Liaison &
Owner of Springfield Corrugated Box

And a special thanks to Frank Lawlor, who is our secretary. Frank could not attend the meeting because he was being a Dad that evening, coaching his son's basketball team; however, Frank has worked with the CCBA since its inception.

Problem With Stray Cats Continuing To Escalate

To The Editor:

Many people seem surprised to learn that a problem with stray cats exists. Dog overpopulation seems to be a better-known fact, perhaps because most communities provide shelter for stray dogs.

Regardless of which species is homeless, pet overpopulation is a serious problem that can best be addressed through education and prevention. Seventy thousand puppies and kittens are born each day in the U.S. By the time a person finishes reading this sentence, another four or so cats, dogs, kittens, and puppies will be put to death in our nation's shelters.

That's one every 1.5 seconds. How many of us are not disturbed by this grim statistic? Purebreds and mutts, young and old, mostly healthy and adoptable - dying because there are not enough good homes for them. Born to be killed, because of irresponsible people who allow their cats and dogs to reproduce. People who do not realize the gravity of this shameful situation should visit shelters regularly and see the dogs and cats who are desperate for homes.

The number of homeless animals can be reduced substantially through spaying and neutering, surgical procedures performed by veterinarians. There is no valid reason for not spaying and neutering a cat or dog; not only will the operation prevent thousands of "surplus" animals from being born, but there are also significant health benefits resulting from having a pet spayed and neutered.

April is "Prevent A Litter" month. Have your pet spayed or neutered and encourage others to do the same. Concerned Citizens for Animals, Inc. offers a low-cost spay/neuter program for financially-needy pet owners.

Contact us at P.O. Box 80073, Springfield, MA 01138, for more information.

Debra LaBruzzo, Vice President
Concerned Citizens For Animals, Inc.
Springfield

What Are The Real Facts Regarding Berkshire Power?

To The Editor:

Facts!?! All I have been hearing about are these so-called "facts" regarding Berkshire Power.

If these so-called "facts" are true, then why didn't the members of the anti-industrial, anti-Berkshire Power group ever put themselves in a position where they would've been cross examined under oath to account for these "facts"? The one forum where they had the opportunity to account for these "facts" was in front of the Energy Facility Citing Board.

And guess what happened—they declined to participate in that process. Isn't it strange that the one place where they would have had to prove these statements under oath, that they chose not to do so! Facts or DISTORTION. Think about it.

Now, I'll give you a couple of real facts. Did you know that Western Mass Electric Co. owns a parcel of land in the Industrial Park? What if Berkshire Power gets denied and Western Mass decides to build a power plant?

Did you know that deregulation of the electric companies will happen within the next year? This means that you will be able to choose the company that gives the best rates.

SEE LETTERS - Page 6...

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Alexander's

Restaurant & Banquet

60 North Westfield Street
Feeding Hills

Dinner
Mon.—Thurs. 4:00 - 9:00
Fri. & Sat. 4:00 - 10:00

Every Night

With Us You Still Can Enjoy Fine Italian Cuisine Made With Only The Finest Quality Ingredients For Under \$10.00. We Feature Delicious Veal, Chicken, Beef And Seafood Entrees Cooked To Your Liking.

Early Bird Specials Mon.—Thurs., 4:00 - 6:00

Enjoy A Variety Of Dishes Selected Nightly By Our Chef For \$6.95. Entrees Include Soup Or Salad, Vegetable, Rolls And Butter.

Open For Dinner At 4:00 P.M.

(Closed On Sundays, Except
For Private Parties)

Coupon

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With Coupon

Order Any Entree And Your Guest Dines
FREE!! *

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LETTERS - from Page 5...

Also, I am looking for some clarification as to what the opponents are really opposed to. Are they opposed to Berkshire Power, the power plant, the in lieu of tax agreement, the fact that the Mayor is in favor of it, or all of these?

I can recall Louis Ferris Russo stating at a public speak time that he does not oppose the power plant, but opposes Berkshire Power. Then yet others oppose the in lieu of tax agreement. And still others don't want a smokestack in the Industrial Park.

I don't understand what these people are looking for in the way of which type of industry can locate in our Industrial Park. Anyhow, just who the heck do these people think they are deciding for everyone what is good for Agawam?

We want businesses to locate here to keep our taxes at a reasonable rate, but yet this certain group of the same people is "scaring" these businesses away. Fisher Scientific is an example of what we almost lost.

What do we do as citizens of Agawam—watch a prime piece of Industrial Land go to waste and watch our taxes rise? We must all unite together and take our town back from the minority of people who are tearing us apart.

"United we stand, divided we fall!" Which is it going to be?

Concerned Agawam Taxpayer,
Laurie (Russo) Littlefield
Feeding Hills

Against Ballot Question About Stripping Tax Authority

To The Editor:

I wish to ask the residents of Agawam to contact the City Council to urge them NOT TO SUPPORT THE PROPOSED BALLOT QUESTION, which is aimed at stripping the Mayor's office of the authority to execute tax agreements with potential industrial developers. The Council should not allow a question of this nature to be presented to the voters of Agawam for the following reasons:

1. The Mayor's office **must** have the authority and support of the town to negotiate with project developers any agreement that would benefit the town. Stripping the office of that authority would prevent Agawam from entering into agreements that could bring substantial revenue to the town—revenue that may be used to purchase computers for our schools, and provide additional services to our senior citizens.

2. If the Mayor (whoever he or she is) executes any agreement with project developers that has a detrimental effect on the town, that person will be held accountable to the citizens of Agawam. The are elections every two years and if the majority of the citizens of Agawam agree that the Mayor has abused his or her authority, that person will not be elected to lead and administer the affairs of the town.

3. The ballot question would be non-binding. There cannot be any legal change in the way we do business resulting from this question.

4. **Most importantly**, asking the town to vote on

stripping the authority from the Mayor's office will have a detrimental effect on the development of our industrial park. Businesses will naturally shy away from any city or town that wants to prevent its chief executive officer from negotiating to attract quality businesses to the community. Also, if the Mayor cannot execute tax agreements with businesses, Agawam **may not be able to compete** with other communities to attract quality developments to the industrial park.

Voting to put this question on the ballot would do nothing more than create hostile, bitter debate that will reinforce the negative image Agawam has gained. The Concerned Agawam Taxpayer's group has been working hard to project Agawam as a community that welcomes opportunity. The town's future depends on all of us working together to create a community that embraces quality industrial development.

I urge you all to consider all of the above reasons this question should not be placed on the ballot. Please register your opposition to this negative ballot question by contacting your City Councilors.

Sincerely,
Vivian Dziardziel

Spokesperson, Concerned Agawam Taxpayers

Coming Out In Masses Is Best Way To Better Schools

To The Editor:

Yet another letter about our schools, but PLEASE don't skim over this one.

It appears from past experience that to get anything done or changed in this town, we need to come out in masses! It was evident everywhere the concern of people if a casino was allowed in our town. The worry over our children and the future of our town could be heard and read every week for months! Where are you now?

Our children's futures are still at stake. If you are sitting back until something happens that involves your child because he/she is "only in elementary school," it already has. They will eventually move up and if changes don't start now, it will **then** directly involve them.

One of the most effective ways to help is to let the Mayor and School Committee know that you want quality education for all the children of Agawam. They are our future business men and women, teachers, etc., and we want them to return to make this town prosper for **their** children's future.

It appears frightening to speak into a microphone in front of a committee up on their "thrones" because they look right through you as though you were a naughty child talking back. Don't forget that you elected them to watch over our children's education, and if they aren't doing their job, you have the right to tell them.

Just as effective are letters. If you just write to say that you are a parent who expects a quality education for all of the children in the town that you live and pay taxes in, you are helping to achieve that.

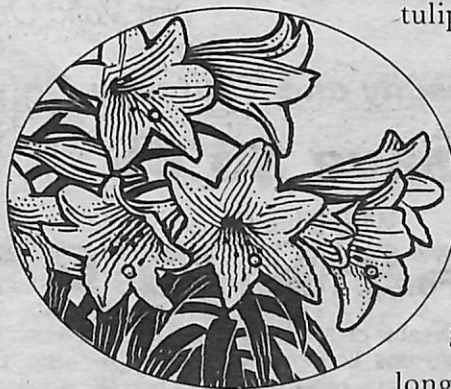
Please write or speak to the School Committee. We need your voices!

Jean Mantha
Agawam

All the hometown news with us, each week!!!

Happy Easter!

We're open through the weekend with a huge assortment of beautiful Easter lilies, tulips, daffodils, and hyacinths.



We also have a wonderful selection of mini-roses, Bobby's Famous Easter Mums, and floral gift baskets for your Easter gift-giving. And it won't be

long now before Spring is truly here and the Stand is open for the season once again with everything you need to get your garden off to a healthy start.

E. Cecchi Farms 1131 Springfield Street, Feeding Hills
"Everything you'd grow if you had 40 acres."

Keenan & Town's Cultural Council Announce Grants

State Representative Daniel F. Keenan and the Agawam Cultural Council are pleased to announce this year's local cultural council grants. Local cultural councils support a wide range of cultural and educational programs for children and adults, with funds provided by the Massachusetts Cultural Council, a state agency.

"These local grants are crucial to the cultural and economic vitality of our community, and provide exciting and innovative education programs for our children," said Rep. Keenan.

The Agawam Cultural Council accepted applications in the fall and carefully reviewed requests for compliance with state guidelines and priorities. "Thanks to the dedicated volunteers of the Agawam Cultural Council, excellent cultural programming is available to everyone in our community," said Rep. Keenan.

The grants are as follows: Agawam Cultural Council grant for the Summer Concert Series, Midwinter Night, and the First Friday Series (which is free to the public); Agawam High School, for admissions to Smith College Museum of Art; Agawam Public Library, for two interactive musical performances for families; David Bates, for a community and family-oriented concert of stories and songs; Anthony J. Boff, for a storytelling performance to enhance good reading and listening skills.

Ed Byrne, for a jazz concert; Elizabeth Depergola, for the video production of an historical documentary; Hampshire Shakespeare Company, for historical impersonation performances by various artists for students; Henry Lappen, for a comic juggling show and workshop for the public; Ken Longstreeth, for a free public concert featuring brass music.

Also, New Valley Singers, for two vocal concerts; Robinson Park School, for a mime theater performance for students, for admissions to the Springfield Library and Museums Association, for admissions to the Springfield Symphony Hall Children's Series; Springfield Symphony Orchestra, for music enrichment program; Robb Strycharz, for a video production documenting local/regional history; Roger Tincknell, for a family folk music concert; Edward M. Wirt, for a jazz concert; and Yankee Notion, for a family concert of New England folk songs.

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Birthday Parties
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Senator Melconian Pushes Transportation Bond Initiatives

Senate Assistant Majority Leader Linda J. Melconian (D-Springfield) has secured \$3.5 million to fund the Route 187 Project as part of the \$4.1 billion Transportation Bond Bill approved by the Senate on Wednesday, March 27th.

The Bond Authorization will now enter a conference committee to reconcile differences with the House bill passed last month. After enactment, the legislation will be sent to Governor Weld, who has indicated he will sign it into law.

Melconian obtained \$3.5 million for the Route 187 Project. The construction project, which extends from Westfield to Feeding Hills Center, will widen, improve drainage, repair potholes, and address vision problems along the route.

"Route 187 extends through many communities in the county," Melconian said. "It is important to upgrade the road, and make it safe for the heavy volume of traffic."

During Senate deliberations on the Transportation Bond Bill, Melconian raised the issue of interior construction, restoration, and repairs to the Massachusetts State Building at the Big E. The most popular exhibits at the Big E grounds are in the six New England state buildings, which showcase the different foods, agriculture, and products distinctive to each New England state. Each state is responsible for maintaining its own building.

"The condition of the Massachusetts State Building is a disgrace," Melconian said. "As the host state of the largest agricultural fair in New England for three weeks in the fall, we should have the best building and the most interesting exhibits."

Some of the possible future exhibits for the Massachusetts Building could include a profile of the Red Sox or Celtics, a raffle for a bike or a Cape Cod vacation, and the exciting tourist options the Commonwealth has to offer.

"There are so many positives to the Big E," Melconian said. "It hosts several great events, employs many of our citizens, and improves our economy. Nearly one-million people pass through the Massachusetts State Building each year to see what our state has to offer. What an opportunity!"

Melconian is also looking to establish a Massachusetts State Exposition Building Maintenance Trust Fund. The fund would receive money from a variety of sources, including state appropriations, gifts and donations, and rental fees from tenants of the Massachusetts State Building.

"The Fund would help to assure that the Massachusetts State Building will remain viable and in good condition for years to come," Melconian said.

"It is disappointing that the Senate refused to address the deterioration of the Massachusetts State Building in the Transportation Bond Bill. However, other capital expenditure vehicles will be before the Senate in the next few months," Melconian said. "We will keep up the fight to see that the Massachusetts State Building receives its proper funding."

ADVERTISER NEWS

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Decrease In Workmen's Compensation On The Docket, Says Rep. Keenan

The Commonwealth's workers' compensation insurers filed for a seven percent rate decrease. The rate filing is to take effect on July 1, 1996 and apply to all policies written until June 30, 1997.

This would translate into an aggregate savings of approximately \$70 million for Massachusetts' employers. The third straight rate decrease means that average rates will be at least 30 percent less than they were in 1993. This is in marked contrast to the years 1987 to 1991, when rates increased annually by double digits.

"Five years ago, we faced a workers' compensation system standing at the edge of an abyss. This third straight reduction in workers' compensation rates is part of decreasing the cost overall of doing business in the state," said Representative Dan Keenan.

"Through the hard work and efforts of the

Legislature and many other parties," he continued, "the system is returning from a crisis and improving each year. This insurance filing is another major step in the right direction and should enhance our job retention and job creation efforts."

The workers' compensation insurers rate filing is the first step in establishing rates. The Division of Insurance reviews the filing, holds a hearing for public comment, and issues its approval or disapproval of the rate filing.

Rep. Keenan also expressed pleasure at the increase in the voluntary market. "This means it is easier for employers to obtain insurance which has been a problem in past years."

The assigned risk pool has shrunk from about 65 percent down to approximately 25 percent in the past few years.

All the hometown news with us, each week!

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MEMBER F.D.I.C.



Phone Numbers Of Elected Officials

1996 City Council Members

Nancy E. Thompson, President

786-0586

19A Mansion Woods Dr., Agawam, MA 01001

Jill P. Simpson, Vice-President

786-0053

24 Pleasant Valley Rd., Feeding Hills, MA 01030

George Blitzas

789-1464

33 Fernwood Dr., Agawam, MA 01001

Edward A. Caba

786-2479

198 Walnut St., Agawam, MA 01001

Thomas J. Ennis, Jr.

786-9402

556 Springfield St., Feeding Hills, MA 01030

Joseph F. Langone

786-3419

180 Suffield St., Agawam, MA 01001

Dennis J. Perry

786-1238

466 North West St., Feeding Hills, MA 01030

Christian M. Quatrone

786-4496

75 Pleasant Valley Rd., Feeding Hills, MA 01030

Kent P. Servis

789-1343

48 Kathy Terrace, Feeding Hills, MA 01030

David Skolnick

786-1115

331 Rowley St., P.O. Box 482, Agawam, MA 01001

Gary E. Suffriti

786-5516

3 Cooper St., Agawam MA 01001

1996 School Committee Members

Christopher C. Johnson, Chairman

786-6297

88 Morningside Circle, Feeding Hills, MA 01030

Teresa Kozloski, Vice-Chairwoman

786-6934

102 Meadow Street, Agawam, MA 01001

Roberta Doering

786-2323

915 River Road, Agawam, MA 01001

Linda Galarneau

789-0245

24 Sycamore Terrace, Agawam, MA 01001

Louis Massola, Jr.

786-5785

6 Sequoia Drive, Feeding Hills, MA 01030

Susan Pettazzoni

786-9699

116 Granger Drive, Feeding Hills, MA 01030

Rosemary Sandlin

786-3256

90 Granger Drive, Feeding Hills, MA 01030

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Fire Chief David Pisano

Safety And Spring Cleaning...

When it's time for spring cleaning, remember a clean house is a safer house.

The Agawam Fire Department reminds you that trash, boxes, piles of clothes, and other combustibles in the home are fuel for a fire. Getting rid of them will help reduce the chance of fire in your home.

When storing heating devices to be used again next winter, make sure electric cords are not frayed or separating. Remember to remove kerosene before storing your kerosene heater.

Often overlooked is the electric blanket. Follow the washing, care, and storage instructions that come with the blanket.

Clean out storage areas such as garages, at-

tics, closets, sheds, and basements on a regular basis. Even warehouses are limited to the amount of storage they can safely keep.

Don't allow areas in your home to become tempting fuel for a fire. Throw away or give away items you are no longer using. Clutter gives fire a place to start and creates obstacles that might prevent escaping safely.

Oily rags can ignite without a heat source because they produce their own heat. Throw them out or store them in a closed metal container. This includes dusting rags used with a furniture polish or spray.

For further information, contact the Agawam Fire Department at 786-2662.

Second Half Real Estate Bills Mailed Out By Town; Due On May 1st

The second half real estate and personal property tax bills for fiscal year 1996 were mailed on March 29, 1996. These bills show the total amount of taxes for fiscal year 1996 and reflect first-half payments that were due by November 1, 1995.

The amount due by May 1, 1996 represents the second-half tax bill. Any variances between the amount due by May 1, 1996 and the "amount now due" reflect unpaid or overpaid first-half tax bills.

Any questions concerning payments should be addressed to the Collector's Office. All payments are due in the Collector's Office by May 1, 1996. Massachusetts state law requires taxpayers to pay the bill whether it is received or not.

If you have not received your bill, please call the Collector's Office at 786-0400, ext. 218.

The second-half tax bills for fiscal year 1996 are payable in full on May 1, 1996. If payment is not made by the due date, interest at the rate of 14 percent will be charged on the amount of the payment that is unpaid and overdue. Interest is computed on overdue second-half real estate and personal property tax payments from April 1, 1996 to the date payment is made.

Payments are considered made when received by the Collector. Taxpayers should allow sufficient time for the Postal Service to process the mail if payments are made by mail.

LEGAL NOTICE

LEGAL NOTICE

LEGAL NOTICE

LEGAL NOTICE

TOWN OF AGAWAM AGAWAM CONSERVATION COMMISSION

The Agawam Conservation Commission will meet on Thursday, April 11, 1996 at 7:15 PM in the Faolin Peirce Community Room, Agawam Police Station, 681 Springfield Street, Feeding Hills, Mass. The purpose of this meeting will be to hear the Request for Determination of Applicability of Jack Moccio for property located at Lot 18B Ramah Circle.

By Order of Henry A. Kozloski, Chairman
Agawam Conservation Commission
Published: April 4, 1996

TOWN OF AGAWAM AGAWAM CONSERVATION COMMISSION

The Agawam Conservation Commission will meet on Thursday, April 11, 1996 at 7:30 PM in the Faolin Peirce Community Room, Agawam Police Station, 681 Springfield Street, Feeding Hills, Mass. The purpose of this meeting will be to hear the Request for Determination of Applicability of Riverside Park for property located at 1623 Main Street.

By Order of Henry A. Kozloski, Chairman
Agawam Conservation Commission
Published: April 4, 1996

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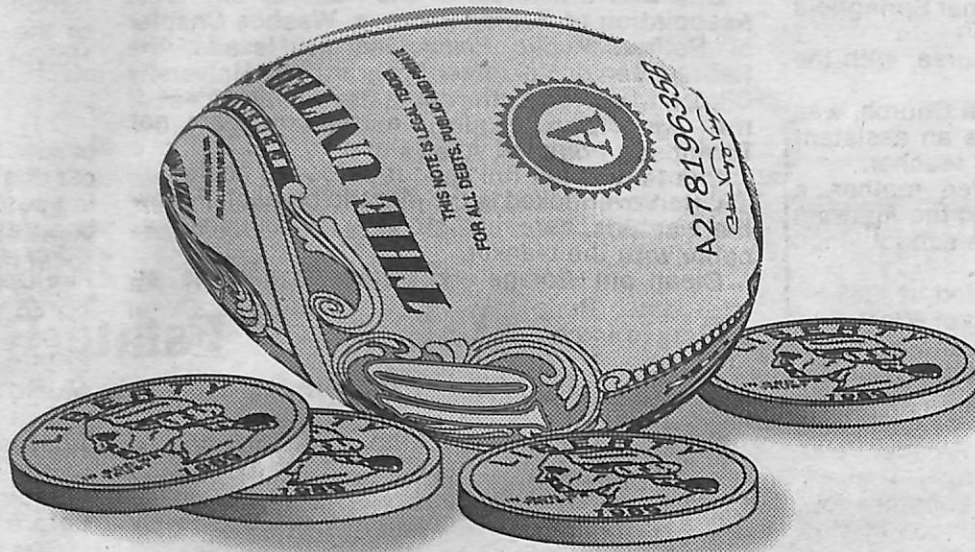


Richard V. Blomstrom



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No annual fees, no maintenance fees. If you have IRAs elsewhere—and wish to consolidate them at Hampden—there is no transfer charge. And no account management fees. If your IRA-CD is rolled over before maturity to a higher-paying account at Hampden, we will waive the customary early withdrawal penalty.

Our IRA Specialist will monitor your account monthly and, when a higher interest CD or Hampden savings account is available, will phone you. If you wish to roll over your accumulated funds into the higher yield account, the transfer will be made at no cost to

you, with no penalty and will continue to be IRA tax-deferred.

Your deposits can never lose value. All *Easy Does It* contributions become principal and, with the help of daily compounding, are guaranteed to grow over time. This is unlike so many IRA investment vehicles such as stocks and mutual funds which can decline in value, sometimes severely. Moreover, your *Easy Does It* retirement fund, regardless of the amount, is fully insured by DIF.

An automatic deposit plan can be arranged. If you'd like to establish a retirement deposit discipline, we'll arrange a payroll deduction program. Or we can arrange automatic transfers from another of your Hampden savings or checking accounts.

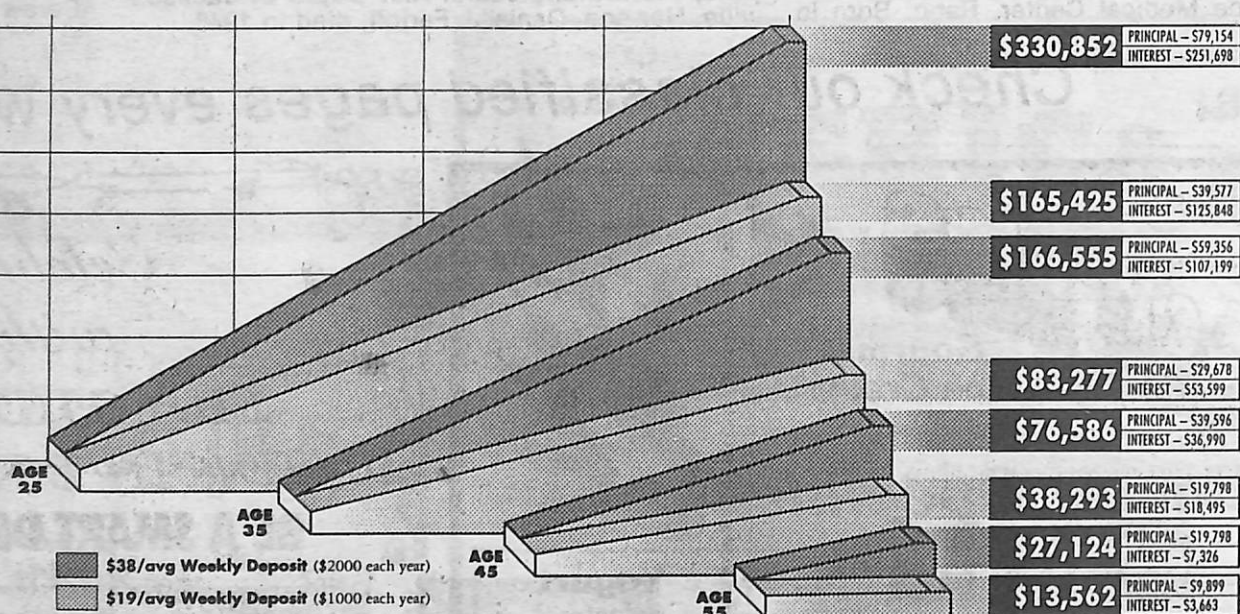
Daily compounded interest is a key factor to growth. Daily compounding exceeds simple interest or monthly compounding for increasing interest yield. In time, accumulated interest can far exceed principal. See the graph for examples.

About the Growth Graph

- Graph for illustrative purposes only.
- Nest egg dollar totals based on 6% interest. (The average rate of Hampden's 12 month CD over the past 10 years ending 12/31/95 was 6.14%.) Actual accumulated dollars can be greater or less than examples depending upon rates prevailing during the plan.
- Graph assumes voluntary termination of plan at age 65, through continuation of a tax-deferred IRA is allowed by the IRS to age 70 1/2.
- All deposit and withdrawal conditions, limitations and penalties that apply to IRAs also apply to the *Easy Does It* retirement plan.



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Agawam Obituaries

Jessie E. Gates

Jessie E. (Carew) Gates, 76, of 36 Corey Colonial, Agawam, a retired registered nurse at the former Springfield Hospital (now Baystate Medical Center), died there recently.

Born in Palmer, she lived in Agawam from 1952. She was a 1942 graduate of the former Springfield Hospital School of Nursing.

She was a World War II Navy nurse, with the rank of lieutenant.

She attended the Congregational Church, was in its Ladies Aid Society, and was an assistant superintendent and Sunday school teacher.

She was also a Cub Scout den mother, a member of the Gridiron Mothers and the Agawam Soccer Mothers, and worked in the school lunch program.

Her husband, Wayne B. Gates, died in 1963.

She leaves three sons, David J. of West Springfield, Wayne B., Jr. of Suffield, and Ralph C. Gates of Feeding Hills; a daughter, Susan G. Blanchard of Belchertown; two brothers, Ralph Carew of Wilbraham, and David P. Carew of Iowa City, Iowa; five sisters, Helen Morris of Prospect Harbor, Maine, Rachel Watrous of Cross Timbers, Md., Sara Jean Ouellette of East Longmeadow, and Florence Fenton and Mary Emerson of Monson; eight grandchildren, and three great-grandchildren.

A memorial service was conducted at the Congregational Church, with a private burial in Center Cemetery. Agawam Funeral Home was in charge of the arrangements.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Arthritis Foundation, Chatham Center, Suite 450, 29 Crafts Street, Newton, MA 02160, or the Shriners Hospital for Crippled Children, 516 Carew Street, Springfield, MA 01104.

Ruth A. Carney

Ruth A. (Regan) Carney, 85, of 693 River Road, Agawam, died at a local nursing home.

She was a registered nurse at St. Vincent's Hospital in Worcester, and at Mercy Hospital in Springfield.

Born in Fitchburg, she was a graduate of the St. Vincent's Hospital School of Nursing. She lived in Worcester before moving to Agawam 30 years ago.

She was a communicant of St. John's Church.

Her husband, John M. Carney Jr., died in 1991. She leaves a brother, John of Leominster, and nieces and nephews, including Ann McManus of West Springfield and Mary Fedora of Feeding Hills.

The funeral was held at Toomey-O'Brien Funeral Home, followed by a service in the church and an afternoon burial at St. John's Cemetery in Worcester.

Memorial contributions may be made to the American Lung Association, 393 Maple Street, Springfield, MA 01105.

Eva Thomas

Eva Thomas, 75, of Reno, Nevada, died March 29th at Washoe Medical Center, Reno. Born in

Athol, Massachusetts, she was a resident of Agawam before moving to Reno 40 years ago.

Thomas was a retired administrative assistant to the deane of the Mackay School of Mines and the College of Education at the University of Nevada at Reno.

She was a member of the national and local Association of Retired Persons, Washoe Chapter of Retired Public Employees of Nevada, the Retired Senior Volunteer Program, the University Club, and served as the secretary and president of the American Legion Auxiliary, Wilston-Thompson Post 185, Agawam.

She leaves her husband, Dorsey, of Reno; her sister, Virginia Callano of Seattle Washington; one stepdaughter; and several nieces and nephews.

Burial will take place at Mt. View Cemetery at a later date. Reno Memorial Cremation & Burial Society is in charge.

Mary J. Hartmann

Mary J. (Geagan) Hartmann, 49, of Springfield Street, Feeding Hills, died at Baystate Medical Center in Springfield.

She has been employed by the former Liberty Mutual Life Insurance Co. of Springfield. She had also worked for Wall Street Journal Publications of Chicopee, Singer Sewing Machine Co. and as a self-employed seamstress.

Born in Springfield, she was a 1964 graduate of the High School of Commerce and a communicant of St. George's Greek Orthodox Church in Springfield. She leaves a son, Thomas of Feeding Hills; two daughters, Susan K. Hartmann and Mindy K. Hartmann, both of Springfield; her parents, Thomas P. and Pauline Geagan of Feeding Hills; three sisters, Pat Jeanette of San Francisco, California, Judy Maleshefski of Holyoke, and Karen Geagan of Feeding Hills.

The funeral was at Dickinson-Streeter Funeral Home, with burial in Springfield Street Cemetery, Feeding Hills.

Memorial contributions may be made to Hospice of Pioneer Valley, Inc., 50 Maple St., P.O. Box 9058, or American Cancer Society, 383 Dwight St., Holyoke, MA 01040.

Anna R. Ferioli

Anna R. (Tadie) Ferioli, 90, of 230 Shore Court, Lauderdale By The Sea, Florida, died on Feb. 19th in Fort Lauderdale. She and her husband, Daniel, co-owned the former House of Ferioli, and a former Dairy Queen outlet, both in West Springfield.

Born in Springfield, she lived in West Springfield for many years before moving south in 1955. She was a member of the Lionesses Club and the Young-At-Heart Club, and was active in town affairs in Florida. She was a communicant of Assumption Church in Pompano.

Her husband, Daniel J. Ferioli, died in 1970. She leaves a daughter, Elaine M. Bellico of Agawam; two grandchildren, Daniel J. Dupre of Jacksonville, Florida and Judith Ann Dupre of Jacksonville. Her son, Daniel J. Ferioli, died in 1948.

A memorial service will be conducted on Saturday morning at the Sacred Heart Church in Feeding Hills. Agawam Funeral Home is in charge.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Alzheimer's Disease and Related Disorders Foundation, 11 Campus Lane, Easthampton, MA 01027, or the American Cancer Society, 383 Maple St., Holyoke, MA 01040.

Lily Ernst

Lily (Rudin) Ernst, 92, of 464 Main Street, Agawam, and formerly of Springfield, died in a local nursing home.

She taught violin to Springfield area youngsters for 40 years.

She was born in Vienna, Austria, and was graduated from the Vienna Conservatory of Music.

She soloed and played with chamber groups in Austria during the 1920's and 1930's.

She came to this country in 1939, and lived in Lincoln, Nebraska, and Wheeling, West Virginia, before moving here.

She gave many recitals and performed with the Wheeling and New Haven, Connecticut Symphony Orchestras.

Her husband, Arthur Ernst, an Austrian newspaper editor, predeceased her.

She leaves a nephew, George Newman, and a grandnephew, Jonathan Newman of Arlington, Virginia.

A graveside service was conducted at B'nai Jacob Cemetery in West Springfield. Harold R. Ascher & Son Funeral Home of Springfield was in charge of the arrangements.

Angelina A. Girotti

Angelina A. (Pintelli) Girotti, 85, of 39 Tower Terrace, Agawam, died at Mercy Hospital in Springfield.

Born in Springfield, she grew up in West Springfield.

She was a longtime resident here, and a communicant of St. Anthony of Padua Church.

She leaves a son, David R. of Southwick; a daughter, Linda A. Wescott of Danbury, Connecticut; two sisters, Delma Bencivenni of Melbourne, Florida, and Martha Haglund of Agawam; three grandchildren, and three great-grandchildren.

Two other grandchildren died in 1992.

The funeral was held at Agawam Curran-Jones Funeral Home and the church, with burial in St. Thomas Cemetery in West Springfield.

Memorial contributions may be made to the church at 108 Bridge Street, Agawam, MA 01001; the Agawam-West Springfield Lions Club, 1305 Memorial Avenue, West Springfield, MA 01089; or the Shriners Hospital for Crippled Children, 516 Carew Street, Springfield, MA 01104.

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Families

Benefit Dinner Dance At Chez Josef For Katelynn Battista

A dinner dance to benefit Katelynn Battista will take place on Monday, April 8, 1996 at Chez Josef (off Route 75, Shoemaker Lane, Agawam).

Katelynn is a 10 year-old fourth grader from West Springfield who suffers from an aggressive form of leukemia. Katelynn's hope is to find a suitable donor to have a bone marrow transplant, which could completely cure her disease.

The dinner dance will begin with a cocktail hour from 6:00 to 7:00 p.m., and a ziti and meatball buffet will follow at 7:00 p.m.

Entertainment will be provided by "DJ Dennis Productions," and a fundraising raffle will also be held.

The donation is \$20 per person. For tickets, call 736-6896, 739-5125, or 747-9674.

Petty Officer Kelley In Persian Gulf

Navy Petty Officer 3rd Class Todd W. Kelley, son of Scott B. and Susan C. Harris of 178 School St., Agawam, is currently halfway through a six-month overseas deployment to the Persian Gulf aboard the destroyer USS Ingersoll.

Kelley is one of 349 Sailors aboard the ship who have traveled 17,000 miles since departing Pearl Harbor. Kelley has been operating in the Persian Gulf helping conduct maritime interceptions of merchant ships suspected of violating the international embargo against Iraq. Kelley and fellow shipmates questioned and boarded 10 ships in international waters suspected of smuggling prohibited materials to and from Iraq in violation of the agreement.

Kelley's ship is equipped with sophisticated radar, sonar, and weapons systems used to combat submarines, ships, and aircraft. The 563-foot-long ship is powered by four large jet engines and can travel nearly 700 miles a day.

Spending 63 days at sea, Kelley also has visited Bahrain, Hong Kong, Malaysia and Oman, and has an opportunity to visit local sites. In Hong Kong, Sailors from Kelley's ship volunteered their free time to clean up the grounds of a children's home. In Muscat, Oman, Sailors pitched in again to renovate a local mission.

Kelley's involvement in the deployment is an example of how U.S. men and women are serving in the Navy and Marine Corps around the world in support of U.S. interests. Whether projecting power ashore, delivering humanitarian assistance, cargo or troops from the sea, these highly trained naval forces provide a unique forward presence and crisis-response option, which can be withdrawn quickly when no longer needed.

The 1993 graduate of Agawam High School joined the Navy in August 1993.

Two New Police Officers Sworn In



NEW POLICE OFFICERS Richard McDonnell and Joseph Santore are sworn-in by Town Clerk Richard Theroux as Mayor Christopher C. Johnson (left) and Police Chief Robert Campbell look on. Advertiser News photo by Jack Devine.

Attorney Paul L. Mancinone Elected To American Asso. Of Certified CPA's

Paul Louis Mancinone, an Agawam native now residing in Suffield, Connecticut, has recently been elected into membership of the American Association of Attorney-Certified Public Accountants.

This Association, created in 1964, serves as a "watch dog" for the unique group of professionals qualified as both attorneys and CPA's.

There are 33 members so qualified in Massachusetts, with just two in the Western Massachusetts area, including Mancinone. There are only 16 members so qualified in all of Connecticut. Mancinone hopes this number increases. "Some argue that there are too many CPA's and too many attorneys out there."

"I would debate that and say there is always

room for dedicated people in both professions. I firmly believe, however, that there is a special niche in the market for those CPA's who go on to obtain a law degree. The problem is, after completing your undergraduate studies and the CPA examination, the last thing you want to do is gear up to go back to law school for another four years. "But that's what you must do to practice at this level," said Mancinone. He consults a Junior Achievement class each year, driving home the point to area youngsters that concentrating in school is the best avenue to a successful life. He encourages other local professionals to do the same.

Mr. Mancinone's office is located at 66 North Main Street in Suffield.

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At Heritage Hall...



IN TOP PHOTO, Heritage Hall resident Jocelyn Jarvis enjoyed a visit from "Pepper" as staff member Susan Morawski looks on. IN PHOTO BELOW, Country Western singer Annie Fogg entertained at Heritage Hall's North Building recently. Advertiser News photos by Jack Devine.



To My Wife

This is for LeeAnne
with whom I had a beautiful baby girl in '91.
And then again in '93,
did she fill my heart with glee.
For it was she, and not me,
who brought a beautiful boy
into this world of us three.
It is for her that I write this song,
for it was I that did her wrong.
The nights and the misfits called me out.
Their calls were loud and I was weak.
I couldn't hear LeeAnne when she would shout,
So our ties grew bland and bleak.
I did what I thought would make me a man.
But all I did was lose track of sight.
To get another chance, oh if I can,
I know this time I'd get it right.
And now my heart bleeds,
not for self-pity, but for my deeds.
And it is for her heart that I weep,
and pray that I may again someday keep.
In my lifetime, I will find no other like her.
For she is my children's mother.
And I love her and nay another.
I love you LeeAnne.

Agawam Historical Association Slates Annual Mtg. For May

The annual meeting for the Agawam Historical Association will take place on May 14, 1996.

The program will be a "Taste of History" at the Storowton Village Museum and a "Tour and History of the Village" by costumed interpreters at 6:00 p.m. Following the program, dinner will take place at Storowton Tavern at 7:30 p.m.

The menu will include an appetizer, dessert, and one of the following for the main course: Yankee pot roast with Jardiniere sauce, or boneless breast of capon with poulet sauce.

The cost is \$16 for members of the Agawam Historical Association, and \$18.50 for non-members.

Reservations and payment are required by April 12, 1996. Please mail your payment to: Agawam Historical Association, P.O. Box 552, Agawam, MA 01001.

For further information, please call 786-6835.

Agawam Senior Ctr.'s Weekly Lunch Menu

Monday, April 8th: Salisbury steak, egg noodles, mixed vegetables, oatmeal bread, banana.

Tuesday, April 9th: Meatloaf w/gravy, baked potato, green beans, oat bread, bread pudding.

Wednesday, April 10th: Baked chicken leg, sweet potatoes, peas, wheat bread, canned peaches.

Thursday, April 11th: B-B-Q pork ribs, baked beans, potato puffs, pumpernickel bread, applesauce w/raisins.

Friday, April 12th: Baked fish, rice Pilaf, spinach, rye bread, cookies.

(Menu subject to change without notice.)

Soft Serve and Ice Cream

Enjoy rich and creamy ice cream at its best!

Serving sundaes, delicious shakes and sodas.



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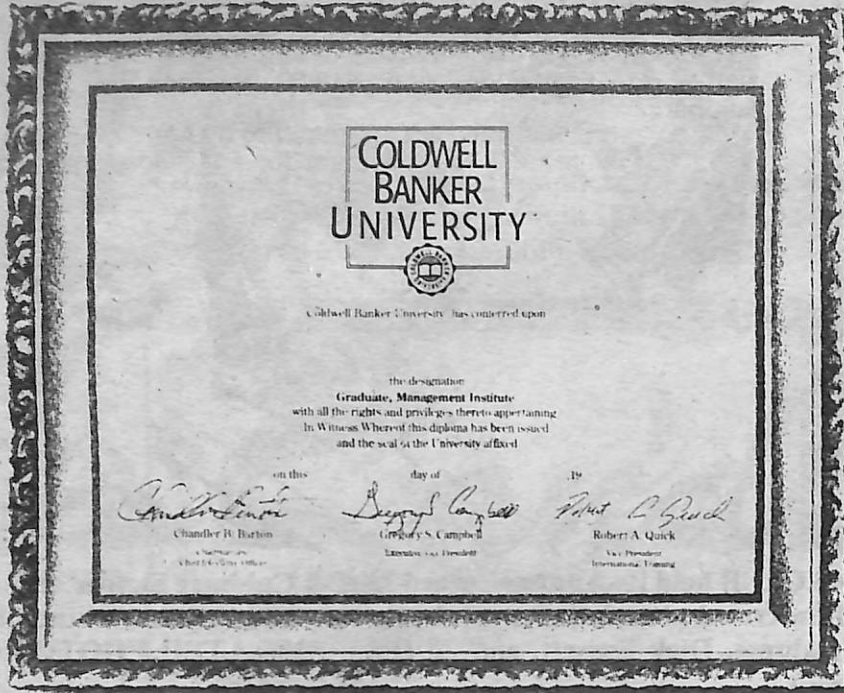
PATTI DUNN O'CONNELL



PAT DORAN



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FRANK PINNEY



KATHY ROSE



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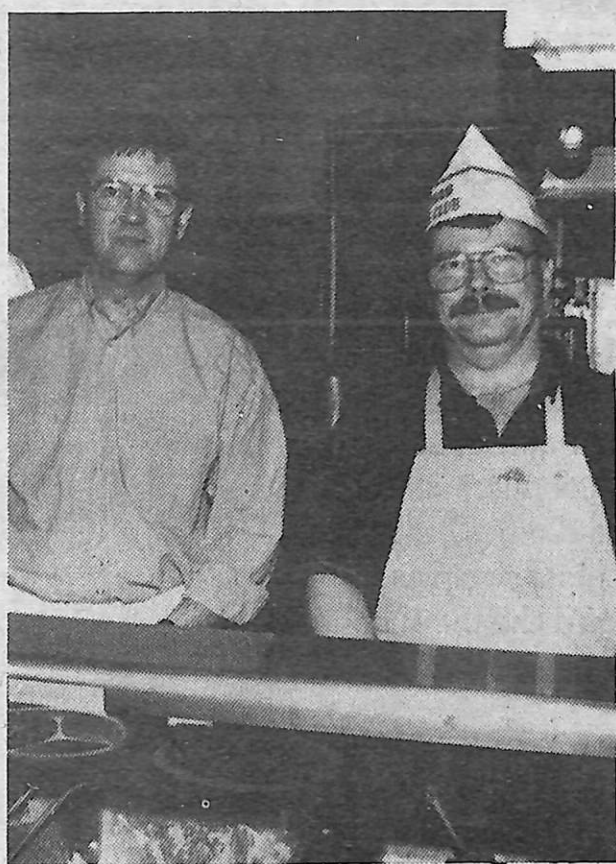
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Lions Club's Corned Beef Supper A Smash Hit



THE AGAWAM LIONS CLUB held its Annual Corned Beef & Cabbage Supper at the Middle School on March 20th and an overflow crowd attended. From left, part of the kitchen crew included - Joe Zabielski, Jerry Hines, Charlie Calabrese, Dick Bassett, and Ed Disco. RELATED PHOTOS ON NEXT PAGE.

Advertiser News photos by Jack Devine.



AGAWAM LIONS CLUB MEMBERS Bob Vanderhoof and Rob Loomis were on the serving line at the club's Annual Corned Beef & Cabbage Supper at the Middle School. AGAWAM LIONESSE CLUB members, from left - Mary Roy, Alice Olson, Terry Angotti, Bernice Burton, Shirley Shea, Marge Disco, Pat Lalancette, and Rose Kieffer were busy selling baked goods at the annual event. RELATED PHOTOS ON PAGE 15. Advertiser News photos by Jack Devine.

Rummage Sale Set At Mittineague

The Women's Guild of the Mittineague Congregational Church have announced that their Spring Rummage Sale will be held in the Charles King Fellowship Hall of the Church on Friday, April 12th, from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

The Mittineague Congregational Church is located at 1840 Westfield Street in West Springfield.

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Getting ready for summer fun? Need to shape up or lose a few pounds? Call Healthy Habits for your **FREE** trial visit. Enjoy our complete fitness program, then relax in our beautiful heated pool and giant Jacuzzi. Find out how easily our exercise and nutrition program works.

The Corned Beef Was Great At Lions Club Supper



THE BOVAT GIRLS, Laura and Lynn, enjoy their corned beef at the Annual Corned Beef & Cabbage Supper sponsored by the Agawam Lions Club. Advertiser News photo by Jack Devine.



THE ANTICO KIDS, Dominick, Christiana, and Alicia, couldn't wait to eat the corned beef dinner cooked by the Agawam Lions Club to celebrate St. Patrick's Day. The dinner was held on March 20th at the Middle School. Advertiser News photo by Jack Devine.

Public Service Seminar On Mortgages To Take Place In W. Springfield

The PIONEER Group, the largest exclusive Home Buyer Real Estate Agency in Western Massachusetts, is sponsoring a 90-minute public service seminar entitled "Mortgages ... What the Banks Don't Tell You."

The seminar will be held on Tuesday evening, April 16th, at 6:30 p.m. at their regional office in the West Springfield Professional Center at 1111 Elm Street, Suite 21, West Springfield.

For more information and reservations, please listen to the recorded message at (413) 735-1546, or call our office at (413) 731-6800. Seating is limited.

Agawam Lioness Slate Ziti Supper For Wed., April 10th

The Agawam Lioness Club is having a ziti and meatball supper on Wednesday, April 10th, from 4:30 to 7:00 p.m.

It will be held at the Agawam Lions Den at the Big E. The cost is \$4.50 for adults, and \$2.50 for children under 12 years of age.

For all the local news, you turn our pages each week!

TEEN

HEALTH EXPO NIGHT

Pediatrics--asthma
 Adult Medicine--HIV/STD'S
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 Dermatology--skin care
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Location:
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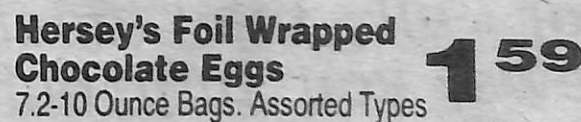
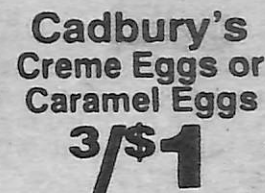
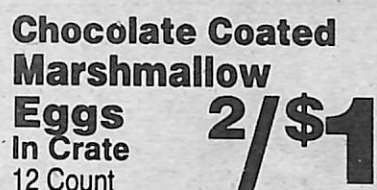
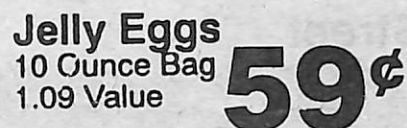
Spring Hours:

Monday thru Friday, 11:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.
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April 7 to
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12 Exp., 15 Exp., 24 Exp., 36 Exp. See store for details.

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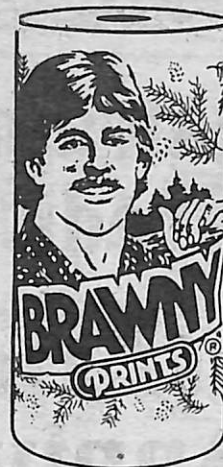
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15 Oz.
Assorted Types.

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MR. & MRS. EDWARD GRIMALDI

Viereck-Grimaldi Nuptials Recently At St. John's Church

St. John the Evangelist Church in Agawam was the setting for the recent wedding of Stacey Viereck and Edward Grimaldi.

The bride is the daughter of Mr. & Mrs. Richard Viereck of Hockessin, Delaware. Parents of the bridegroom are Mr. & Mrs. Edward Grimaldi of 127 Channell Drive, Agawam.

Heather Watson attended the bride as maid of honor. Barry Felix was best man.

The bride is a graduate of Central Connecticut State University in New Britain, Connecticut. Her husband attended Westfield State College and Holyoke Community College.

The couple own and operate the United Consumers Club facility in Eatontown, New Jersey.

"I Wed Three Wives" Coming To Town For Operation Friendship

Operation Friendship's Mystery Dinner offering, "I Wed Three Wives," will be presented on Saturday, April 13, 1996 at 6:30 p.m. The show will be held at Feeding Hills Congregational Church, 21 North Westfield Street, Feeding Hills.

Herb Fillbrook is married to three different women, all at the same time. When all three wives and Herb show up at the Feeding Hills Country Inn, all kinds of fireworks occur ... including MURDER!

Come and see if you can solve the mystery before the erstwhile Inspector. Compete with other tables to see who can win the evening's prize.

Ticket are \$12.50, including dinner. This has to be one of the best entertainment values in Agawam. Don't miss out!

Call 786-0195 or 789-3128 for reservations. (Please leave a name and telephone number if you get an answering machine.)

Lisa Ziegert Vigil Planned April 15th At Veterans Green

A Candlelight Vigil for Lisa Ziegert, who was murdered in Agawam on April 15, 1992, will be held on Monday, April 15th at 6:30 p.m. at the Veterans Green on Main Street in Agawam.

This vigil is held in Lisa's memory to show love and support for her family and to remind the community that her murder is still unsolved.

Mayor Christopher C. Johnson will be speaking, as well as a few of her friends and family members. Ms. Annie Fogg, a country singer from Southwick, will be there to sing a special song she wrote in Lisa's memory entitled, "Lisa's Song."

Your presence at this vigil will help us unite together as a community to show our love and support for Lisa and her family.

We cannot give up!

Democracy Winner...



MARY DRISCOLL (center) from the VFW Women's Auxiliary District 7 is pictured with Mark Glover (left) from Wilbraham, winner of the Voice of Democracy contest. At right is VFW State Commander Carl Aiello.



The Agawam Senior Games Athletes will hold a two-day tag sale in the Agawam Senior Center on Saturday and Sunday, April 13th and 14th, from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Come one, come all!

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40th Anniversary Celebration

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Come to the Credit Union and join the celebration. Sign up to win a color TV or a VCR. Lucky winners to be announced at our buffet at **Alexander's** on **May 4, 1996**. Cocktails 6:00 to 7:00 p.m.; buffet 7:00 p.m. The cost is \$5 per person. Music by disc jockey. Purchase tickets at the Credit Union or from any member of the Board of Directors.

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Church News

Easter Services Slated At Ag. Congregational For Sunday Morning

Agawam Congregational Church, located at 745 Main Street, Agawam, announces its schedule of services for Easter morning (Sunday, April 7th).

A sunrise service will begin at 6:30 a.m. at the Springfield Turn-Verein Club, Garden Street, Feeding Hills. Following that, an Easter breakfast will be served from 7:00 to 8:30 a.m. at the church.

Worship services will also take place at 9:00 and 11:00 a.m. The choirs (under the direction of Bryan Kirby) will present several beautiful Easter anthems.

Rev. Fuller's sermon at 9:00 a.m. will be "Preparing For Service," and the children's message will be "Are You Ever Surprised?" At the 11:00 a.m. service, Rev. Fuller's sermon will be "God's Word In You," and the children's message will be "You Can Run At Your Own Pace."

A New Member Class will be held on Saturday, April 6th, at 10:00 a.m.

Anyone wishing to join the church is welcome to attend. Please call the church office at 786-7111 for more information.

The church's one-day Vacation Bible Camp has been planned for Friday, April 19th, from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon.

The theme for the camp is "Loaves & Fishes." The cost for the camp is \$3 per child (\$8 maximum per family).

For more information and registration, call the church office at 786-7111.

The 1996 Confirmation Class will be received into the church on Maundy Thursday, April 4th, at 7:00 p.m. Rev. Steve Gray, Associate Conference Minister of the Massachusetts United Church of Christ, will conduct the service.

This year's confirmands are Alison Moran, Robert Fuller, and Jennifer Rettew. The Deacons will conduct a Service of Tenebrae immediately following the Confirmation service.

Local Clergy Thanked By Heritage Hall



MEMBERS OF THE AGAWAM CLERGY recently attended a "Thank-You Luncheon" at Heritage Hall Nursing Home, West Building. Staff and residents were on hand to greet these familiar faces who offer support and spiritual guidance throughout the year. Advertiser News photo by Jack Devine.

Dedication Service At Valley Community Slated For Good Friday (April 5th)

Valley Community Church warmly invites the community to a Dedication Service at 11:45 a.m. on Good Friday.

This service is being held to dedicate the wooden cross which was made and erected by church members on Palm Sunday. During this service, the purple shroud will be taken from the cross. In its place will be hung a crown of thorns,

a black shroud, and three spikes, all symbolizing the day our Lord Jesus Christ was crucified. It will be a memorable and meaningful experience for all Christians throughout our community.

Won't you take a few moments of your busy day to join us as we dedicate this cross on Good Friday?

Valley Community Church is located at 152 South Westfield St.

Easter Plants

Easter Lilies



\$4.99

6" Pot

5-6 Blooms

Assorted • Tulips
• Hyacinths • Daffodils

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6" Pot

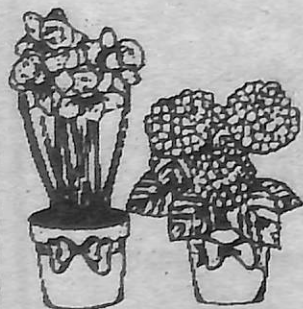
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Fresh Bouquets

\$3.99

and up



4" Plants

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Many more varieties available.

Mitch's Professional LAWN FOOD

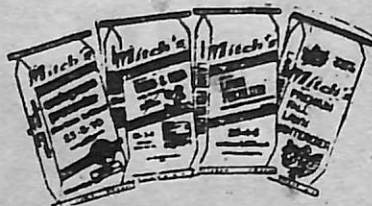


5,000 Sq. Ft.

But One, Get One FREE!

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Mitch's 4-Step All Season Lawn Program

Your lawn receives 4 completely balanced feedings while weeds are kept under control.

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Good For 100 Ft x 50 Ft

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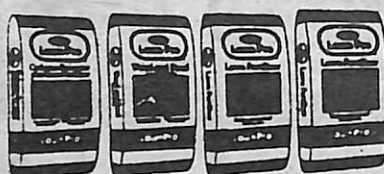


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Scotts FOUR EASY STEPS TO A GREAT LAWN



The Scotts Difference® —

- Get a thick, green Scotts lawn
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15,000 Sq. Ft. Program

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Pellitized Lime

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Cedar Mulch

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3 Cu. Ft. Bag



Sale Thru April 11th

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Church News - continued...**One-Day Vacation Bible Camp Slated At Ag. Congregational**

On April 19, 1996, during the April school vacation, the Agawam Congregational Church will be sponsoring a morning Vacation Bible Camp. The hours will be from 9:00 a.m. until 12:00 noon.

The theme will be "Loaves and Fishes." All children from age three through and including sixth grade are invited to come and enjoy themselves. There will be a \$3 per child (\$8 maximum per family) charge.

The children will have a fun-filled learning experience. They will produce a hot vegetable soup with fresh bread to be served at the West Springfield/Agawam Open Pantry. Also, canned goods will be collected for the Open Pantry.

Adults who would like to come and help are welcome. There will be babysitting for the younger children of the helpers/teachers/aides.

If you have any questions, would like to register, or to volunteer, please call the church office at 786-7111.

Easter Weekend Calendar At St. John The Evangelist Church

The following is the Good Friday, Holy Saturday, and Easter Sunday schedule for St. John the Evangelist Church:

On Good Friday, a morning prayer service will take place at 8:30 a.m.; the Children's Stations at 12:00 noon; the Stations of the Cross at 3:00 p.m.; and the Liturgy of the Lord's Passion at 7:00 p.m. (will include veneration of the Cross and Holy Communion).

On Holy Saturday, a blessing of food will be held at 10:00 a.m. in St. John's Parish Center. The Easter Vigil will be celebrated at 8:00 p.m. starting with the Blessing of the new fire and reception of the new adult members into the Church. This is the first Mass of Easter; no Saturday Masses will be held at 4:00 and 6:00 p.m. this week on Saturday.

The Masses on Easter Sunday are at 7:00, 9:30, and 11:30 a.m. (the regular Sunday schedule).

Women's Club At Valley Community Sets Bake Sale

The Women's Club at Valley Community Church will once again be holding their annual Good Friday "Bake Sale."

The Bake Sale will be held at Ames Department Store on Springfield Street in Agawam beginning at 9:00 a.m.

Many of the home-baked items you'll see on the table will be the same as the desserts you see at our monthly chicken suppers which have become "community-famous."

During the bake sale, we will also be selling raffle tickets for our traditional Easter "bunny" cake.

So if you have places to go and things to do and just can't fit holiday baking into your busy schedule, plan to stop by. You're sure to find something appealing, enticing, and guaranteed fattening.

For best selection, it is suggested that you stop by early.



AGAWAM CONGREGATIONAL'S PLANNING COMMITTEE for the upcoming Vacation Bible Camp entitled "Loaves and Fishes" are pictured hard at work getting ready for the big event on April 19th. Advertiser News photo by Jack Devine.

Harvest Assembly Announces Times For Easter Services

Harvest Assembly of God will have a special Easter celebration service this Sunday, April 7th, at 10:30 a.m.

There will be special music by the Harvestime Quartet, a communion celebration, and a message by Pastor Chuck Schivley entitled "The Impact of Easter."

There is also a Kids' Church for grades one through five, preschool, and nursery care.

The church is located at 121 Union Street in West Springfield (near the I.H.O.P. restaurant). All are welcome.

For more information, please call the church at 739-1234.

Spring Schedule Of Novi Cantori Concerts

The choral ensemble Novi Cantori announces their spring concert schedule:

April 21st—First Congregational Church, West Springfield.

April 28th—United Congregational Church, Holyoke (Skinner Chapel).

May 5th—Our Lady of Mount Carmel, Ware.

All concerts will begin at 4:00 p.m., and are free and open to the public.

The program will include works by Byrd, Gibbons, Stanford, Brahms, and Rutter, as well as English madrigals and American folksongs and spirituals.

Novi Cantori is an auditioned chamber choir of 18 voices, directed by Allan Taylor and accompanied by organist Carol Spinelli.

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Sunday Services:

Family Bible Classes 9:30 a.m.

Morning Worship 10:30 a.m.

Evening Praise 6:00 p.m.

Wednesday Prayer Meeting 7:00 p.m.

Grace Baptist Church

475 Pine Street

Feeding Hills, MA 01030

(413) 821-0112

Rev. Todd J. Kilburn, Pastor

(we are located right on the Connecticut line)

Church News - continued...

ENJOYING THE TEDDY BEAR DRIVE at Feeding Hills Congregational Church, from left - Richard Rozanski and Patsy Traficante (with Easter baskets); Kendall Hill, Amanda Rozanski, Joshua Traficante, and Heather Cox with some of the Teddy Bears; and T.J. Chapman, Patricia DeYoung, and Stephanie Cox were making hot cross buns in the kitchen. Advertiser News photos by Jack Devine.

Teddy Bear Drive Big Success At F.H. Congregational

CULMINATION OF T-BEAR DRIVE

What do kids, the elderly, teddy bears, and hot cross buns have in common? They were all the focus of activities at Feeding Hills Congregational Church on Saturday, March 30th.

The event was the culmination of the church's T-Bear Drive, a marvelous stroke of inspiration on the part of Sunday School teacher Melinda Coffey.

When her own mother's bear kept finding its way to the rooms of other residents at the Agawam Country Estates Nursing Home, Melinda had realized that many of the elderly have a great need for something to cuddle and hold. She approached her church's Christian Ed. Committee with the idea of collecting and sprucing up used stuffed animals for distribution among the elderly.

SEE F.H. CONGREGATIONAL - Page 22...

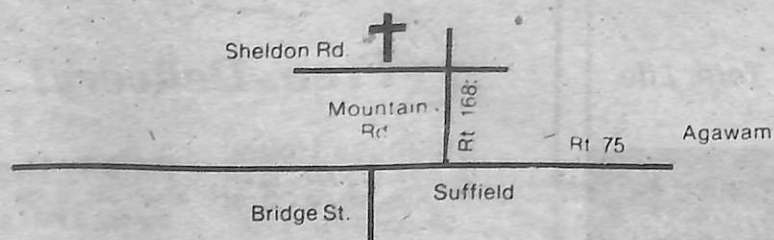


DIGIRIGOLI SALONS helped raise funds for Operation Friendship, the international summer youth exchange with a chapter at Feeding Hills Congregational Church, on March 24th. From left - Kristen LaRochelle cuts Kevin Mangano's hair, and in photo right, Annette Martinez works on Courtney Donaldson's head. Advertiser News photos by Jack Devine.



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A Foursquare Gospel Church

- Evangelical And Charismatic
- Sermons Based Upon Weekly Scripture Readings; What The Passages Mean And How They Apply To Our Lives Today
- Contemporary Worship Music
- Children's Ministry Available During Services
- 10:00 A.M. Sunday Morning Worship Services At The VFW Hall, Located At 972 Sheldon Road (Off Mountain Road - Rt. 168) In Suffield, Connecticut
- One Of The Fastest Growing Protestant Denominations
- For Further Information, Please Call Reverend Peter Monahan, Pastor, At (860) 668-4444 Or (413) 786-8735.



Did Jesus Christ Rise From The Dead?

- The Bible insists that God proved Jesus Christ is the Lord and Savior of mankind by raising him from the dead.
- The Bible claims that Jesus' resurrection was actual, literal and physical; not just a "spiritual" event.
- The Bible asserts that if Jesus Christ was not really raised from death, Christianity is a false religion and Christians are pitiful people.
- On Easter Sunday, April 7th, we will examine the historical evidence of the resurrection of Jesus Christ.
- Was Jesus Christ really raised from the dead or not? The answer to that question has significant and personal ramifications for every man, woman, and child.
- 10:00 A.M. Sunday Morning Worship Service at the VFW Hall, located at 972 Sheldon Road (off Mountain Road - Rt. 168) in Suffield, Connecticut.
- Children's Ministry available during service



Church of the APOSTLES
A Foursquare Gospel Church

Church News - continued...**Sacred Heart Church
To Celebrate 50th
Anniversary In May**

All registered parishioners of Sacred Heart Church will receive an invitation to the GALA CELEBRATION of the 50th Anniversary of The Parish on Sunday, May 19, 1996.

The Anniversary Committee would like to invite all in the area to join The Parish on this day of rejoicing, reunion, and thanksgiving.

A Pontifical Celebration with Bishop Thomas Duple as chief celebrant will take place in the Church at 3:00 p.m.

The reception, dinner, and dance will be held at Chez Josef starting at 4:30 p.m.

Tickets for the dinner/dance are \$25 and include a choice of Filet Mignon, Chicken Francise, or Baked Stuffed Shrimp.

Anyone who would like to attend, please call Sacred Heart rectory at 786-8200.

**Easter Sunrise Service
On April 7th At
Valley Community**

Do you miss the old "family tradition" of beginning each Easter with a Sunrise Service? Is your day so full of travel or activities that you can't attend your Easter Worship Service? Or perhaps the true meaning of Easter has slipped from your heart by day-to-day pressures?

Valley Community Church and Feeding Hills Congregational Church invite you to join them in fellowship on Easter morning at 6:00 a.m. outside for the annual Easter Sunrise Service.

The Service will be led by both Rev. Stephen Dennehy from Valley Community Church and Rev. Robert Donaldson from Feeding Hills Congregational Church. The hilltop will be covered with the congregations from both churches as they celebrate the impact of Christ's resurrection for all Christians.

During the service, they also will be removing the crown of thorns and black shroud from the newly-erected cross, and adorning it with the Crown of Kings and white shroud.

So, if you want to rekindle or start an Easter family tradition; or if you want to pause before you start your busy Easter day; or if you need to fill your heart with rejoicing about what Christ's resurrection can do for you ... then we'll look for you "high on a hilltop" on Easter sunrise.

FH CONGREGATIONAL - from Page 21...

As word of the project spread by way of "The Agawam Advertiser News" and the local cable access channel, bears began waltzing into the church office, accompanied by their generous donors.

Under Melinda's direction, some 20 youngsters and half a dozen adults spent the day baking the buns from scratch, putting new ribbons and bows on the bears and other stuffed animals, and preparing other gifts for distribution among the elderly.

With well over 100 bears collected and readied for distribution, the project was a "bearitable" honey of a success!

OPERATION FRIENDSHIP'S "CUT-A-THON"
In conjunction with DiGrigoli Salons, Operation

**Valley Community
Slates Many Events
For Holy Week**

Valley Community Church, located "high on a hilltop" at 152 South Westfield St., excitingly announces its weekly calendar of events.

FRIDAY, APRIL 5TH: Women's Club Bake Sale will be held at Ames Department Store on Springfield Street beginning at 9:00 a.m. Dedication Service at 11:45 a.m. for the newly erected cross located on our front lawn. Participation in the Ecumenical Service at Agawam Baptist Church at 7:00 p.m.

SATURDAY, APRIL 6TH: 24-Hour Prayer Vigil beginning at 6:00 a.m.

SUNDAY, APRIL 7TH: Sunrise Service at 6:00 a.m. Dress Warmly.

Easter Worship Service begins at 9:30 a.m. Celebration of Easter music by both the Junior and Senior Choir. Sunday School program, held during the Worship Service, will include "show and tell" and an Easter Egg Hunt. Nursery care is available.

MONDAY, APRIL 8TH: Girl Scouts meet in Dunn Hall at 6:30 p.m. Administrative Committee Meeting at 7:00 p.m.

THURSDAY, APRIL 11TH: Cub Scouts meet in Dunn Hall at 6:30 p.m. Choir Rehearsal at 7:00 p.m.

SATURDAY, APRIL 13TH: Monthly chicken supper beginning at 5:00 p.m. with continuous servings until 7:00 p.m.

**Ag. Church Of The
Bible To Present "The
Ragman" This Easter**

This year's Easter Sunday service will be highlighted by a presentation of the dramatic sketch "The Ragman." Joyful music, exciting children's classes, a practical Bible message, and a refreshing coffee hour will add to the celebration of the day.

Agawam Church of the Bible meets at the Agawam Junior High School, and the Easter Sunday service begins at 10:00 a.m. (Please remember the daylight savings time change: set the clock forward!)

As always, Agawam Church welcomes guests. If you would like more information, please contact Pastor Roger Martin at 789-2904.

Friendship held its third Cut-a-thon at the Feeding Hills Congregational Church on Sunday, March 24th.

The event was a fundraiser for the group, which sponsors an international student exchange program. Last summer, the members hosted a group of students and advisors from Wales for three weeks.

Operation Friendship is now raising money to finance trips to Europe for its local members. The members are Ryan White, Shelley Rose, Shannon Gilmartin, Mike Mangano, Jon Couture, Kelly Carmody, and Dave Cassanelli.

The event, organized by Jackie Gilmartin, gave dozens of area residents the opportunity to both support the students and walk away with great-looking new haircuts at a special discount.



MEMBERS OF VALLEY COMMUNITY CHURCH have erected a 16-foot wooden cross for the Easter Season. RELATED PHOTO ON FRONT PAGE.

**St. John's 50th
Anniversary Comm.
To Meet On April 9th**

A meeting of the 50th Anniversary Committee for St. John the Evangelist Church will take place on Tuesday, April 9th, at 7:00 p.m. in the church's Parish Center.

All members of this committee are asked to attend. Final arrangements will be made for the Anniversary Mass to be held on April 21st.

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Church News - continued...**24-Hour Prayers
Part Of Vigil At
Valley Community**

On Saturday, April 6th, members of Valley Community Church will be praying—praying every minute of every hour for 24 straight hours.

Last Easter season, members of the congregation were asked for their input on holding a 24-hour prayer vigil. Not only were they enthusiastic, they were eager, as the focus of that vigil was our church. We prayed for church growth, for fellowship, for expanding our impact within the community and the world, and for spiritual enthusiasm in following in the footsteps of Jesus Christ.

And as a result of that prayer vigil, God showered His blessings on His church!! Valley Community Church is a church on the move, a church alive with the power of the Holy Spirit!!

The prayer vigil this year will not only be for the continued excitement abounding within the church, but also for sharing this joy throughout the community and the world through our voices and our actions.

Valley Community Church is an inter-denominational church and warmly welcomes everyone who is seeking a relationship with God.

The church is located "high on the hilltop" at 152 South Westfield St.

**Cath. Women
To Meet At
St. John's**

The Catholic Women's Club of Agawam will meet in the Parish Center of St. John the Evangelist Church on Monday, April 8th, at 8:00 p.m.

President Gloria Colby will conduct a brief business meeting. Vice-President Betsy Ciempa, Program Chairwoman, will present the guest speaker, Sr. Annette McDermott, S.S.J.

Sr. Annette is the Director of the Center for Human Development and the President of the Grey House, both in Springfield. She will speak on her life experiences in lay and religious life, and will touch on her trip last fall as one of the U.S. delegates to the U.N. Conference on Women in Beijing, China.

PERSONAL**PRAYER TO THE
BLESSED VIRGIN**

(Never known to fail)

O most beautiful flower of Mt. Carmel fruitful vine, splendor of Heaven, blessed Mother of the Son of God, Immaculate Virgin, assist me in my necessity. O star of the Sea, help me and show me here you are my mother. O Holy Mary Mother of God, Queen of Heaven & Earth I humbly beseech you from the bottom of my heart to secure me in my necessity (make request). There are none that can withstand your power. O Mary conceived without sin pray for us who have recourse (3 times). O Holy Mary, I place this cause in your hands (3 times). Say this prayer for nine consecutive days & then you must publish & it will be granted to you.

MM

**Best local
news - AAN!**

**Sunrise Service On Easter Sunday To Be
Attended By Members of F.H. Congregational**

You are welcome to join with us at the Feeding Hills Congregational Church, which is located at 21 N. Westfield Street in Feeding Hills.

On Easter Sunday, we will meet for a sunrise service at Valley Community Church at 6:00 a.m. Following that service, there will be a breakfast in their church hall.

At 10:00 a.m., a Service of Holy Communion will be held at the Feeding Hills Congregational Church. The choir will perform an Easter cantata, "Walk Worthy," written by Joseph M. Martin.

There will be no Sunday School or Adult Bible Literacy classes that morning. Nursery care will be provided as usual.

The choir will hold a rehearsal on Saturday, April 6th, at 10:00 a.m.

The Youth Group will not make its customary visit to the Springfield Rescue Mission on April 7th. They will resume their meal preparations on the first Sunday in May.

The deadline for the church newsletter will be Tuesday, April 9th. Please have any information in the office by that date if you want it included in the newsletter.

The Youth Group is planning to once again delight us with a delicious pancake breakfast on Saturday, April 13th.

Pancakes, eggs, and all the fixings will be served from 8:30 to 11:00 a.m.

On the calendar this week:

Saturday, April 6th: 10:00 a.m., Choir rehearsal.

Sunday, April 7th: Easter! 6:00 a.m., Sunrise Service and breakfast at Valley Community; 10:00 a.m., Morning worship at FHCC.

Monday, April 8th: 5:00 p.m., Girl Scouts; 7:00 p.m., Trustees.

Tuesday, April 9th: "The Informer" deadline; 7:00 p.m., A.A.; 7:30 p.m., Stewardship/Missions.

Wednesday, April 10th: 2:30 p.m., Girl Scouts; 7:00 p.m., Choir; 7:30 p.m., Finance; 7:45 p.m., Cub Scout Committee.

Friday, April 12th: 7:30 p.m., OF Dinner Theatre Rehearsal.

Saturday, April 13th: 8:30 to 11:00 a.m., Youth Group Pancake Breakfast; 6:30 p.m., OF Dinner Theatre.

Easter Services

*"We Celebrate His Death and Resurrection.
as We Await The Day of His Coming."*

Good Friday - April 5

10:00 AM Children's Stations Service

7:00 PM Stations of the Cross

Holy Saturday - April 6

11:00 AM Caregivers Eucharist

5:00 PM Children's Eucharist*

*Nursery care available

*Alleluia! Christ is Risen!
The Lord is Risen Indeed!*

Easter Sunday - April 7

8:00 AM Festival Eucharist

10:00 AM Festival Eucharist

at the Middle School*

*Nursery care available

**St. David's
Episcopal Church**

522 Springfield Street, Feeding Hills

786-6133

Church News - continued...

Words Of Guidance From Rev. Telemaque For Easter Sunday

Reverend Reuben Telemaque, pastor of Agawam United Methodist Church, offers the following words of guidance as we approach Easter Sunday:

"Easter is Resurrection Time. It is the belief of Christians that the resurrection of Christ confirms the fact that no one can successfully entomb the life of God's people, especially when they are in a binding relationship with God.

"One of the most practical statements which bears this out is: 'You will not allow my soul to stay in Hades or suffer your holy one to see corruption.' Whether in the case of the psalmist or in the quotation of these words, an abiding faith in the will and power of God to reinstate his people, is here depicted.

"References to not only the survival, but also to the new, powerful, and convincing lives of persons once oppressed or entrapped (whose freedom is attributed to the love, will, and enablement of God) are many. Stories of Meshach, Shadrach, and Abednego thrown in the fiery furnace; of Daniel in the lion's den; and others, declare the conquest over death and the establishment of the people of God.

"I would like in this statement to encourage all who are oppressed; all who feel themselves entombed, despised, rejected, or forsaken; all who experience persecution (whose freedom is unduly limited); all who suffer undue and wicked discrimination, and whose role in society has been severely wounded by the crime of injustice ... to go on believing in the love and purpose of God for you. It is Resurrection Time!

"The Christlike personality triumphs over evil; the Christlike personality perseveres in spite of obstacles; the Christlike personality cannot be entombed."

Please join the members of the Agawam United Methodist Church on:

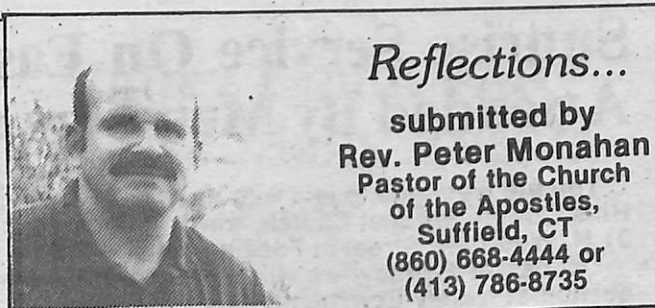
Good Friday (April 5th) for meditation from 12:00 noon to 3:00 p.m.

Easter Sunday (April 7th) for the Sunrise Service at 5:30 a.m., and the 9:30 a.m. Worship Service.

A NEW VISION - Over 20 leaders recently attended an evening seminar by the Rev. Stewart Lanier.

As a result, other meetings leading to new visionary and congregational enablement are being planned.

Check our classified pages today!!!



Reflections...

submitted by
Rev. Peter Monahan
Pastor of the Church
of the Apostles,
Suffield, CT
(860) 668-4444 or
(413) 786-8735

The Miracle Of Easter...

This coming Sunday, most of Christendom celebrates Easter, the day Jesus Christ conquered death and the devil by rising from the dead. Easter is one of the most important Christian holidays, because the events of the first Easter Sunday set Jesus apart from all other people and define Him as the Son of God.

As we gather at churches this weekend and sing "Christ The Lord Is Risen Today," what we do mean by those words? It might be a surprise to many that some in the Church do not believe that Jesus Christ was actually, literally, raised from death.

Sadly, this group even includes some clergy, the ministers whose job it is to believe in and proclaim the Christian Gospel. For these people, "Christ The Lord Is Risen Today" means that the message of Jesus Christ lives on, but the person of Jesus Christ is really dead, and has been, for almost 2,000 years.

Some would suggest Jesus Christ was raised in a "spiritual way" rather than via a bodily resurrection. Although there may have been a few who thought this way in the first century, this idea did not really take hold until about the 18th century.

The early promoters of this new way of thinking based their ideology upon their presupposition that miracles don't really happen, and therefore the miracles in the Bible are simply myths.

The greatest miracle in the Bible is the resurrection of Jesus; so if miracles are presupposed out

Nocturnal Adoration To Pray April 12th At St. Ann's Church

The Nocturnal Adoration Society of Agawam and West Springfield will meet at Saint Ann's Church, Memorial Avenue, West Springfield to conduct and pray the Office of the Blessed Sacrament, Friday, April 12th, from 7:00 to 11:00 p.m.

All are invited to come and spend an hour in Eucharistic Adoration.

of existence, the resurrection must be redefined.

At first, it would have been unthinkable to deny Jesus' resurrection outright, hence the redefinition of the greatest miracle in the Bible as a "spiritual" event rather than an actual occurrence.

People could still go to church on Easter Sunday and sing "Christ The Lord Is Risen Today," but the meaning behind that marvelous proclamation was quietly being subverted.

The new theology has developed, or perhaps degenerated, over time into an actual and outright denial of Jesus' rising from death. In this century, Rudolf Bultmann articulated the notion that Jesus was raised in the "kerygma"; that is, the proclamation of the Church.

In other words, Jesus' resurrection was invented by the Church for their own propaganda purposes. Simply stated, this new theology says Jesus did not really rise from the dead, that is only a myth. According to them, the resurrected Christ has as much power to affect your life as Santa Claus or the Easter Bunny.

What does the real expert say about this? Jesus Himself predicted the Easter miracle to His disciples and staked His entire credibility on it.

"From that time on Jesus began to explain to His disciples that He must go to Jerusalem and suffer many things at the hands of the elders, chief priests and teachers of the law, that He must be killed and on the third day be raised to life." (Matthew 16:21).

The Bible also tells us, "The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the devil's work." (1 John 3:8). He did that by dying for our sins and being resurrected on the third day!

Check our classified



Ask Dr.

by **Stephen Jacaparo,**
D.M.D.

1379 Main Street,
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(413) 786-8177

TROUBLESOME LATECOMERS

Q. Why do we hear so often of problems with wisdom teeth?

A. These four teeth, at the upper and lower rearmost positions, are the last permanent teeth to emerge. This usually occurs between age 16 and 25. If they emerge into satisfactory position, the experience may be no more painful than a young child's teething.

Worse, wisdom teeth may not totally emerge. This sometimes happens if there isn't enough room in the mouth for them. One might emerge only partly, or at a sharp angle putting pressure on adjacent teeth, and some become impacted—remaining entirely in the gum. Checkups and X-rays in the teen years monitor the developing wisdom teeth and indicate how to deal with what might lie ahead. Sometimes, but not always, it's advisable to extract a problem wisdom tooth.

PROVE IT!

Q. How reliable are manufacturers' claims for toothpastes and rinses?

A. Look for the Seal of Acceptance of the American Dental Society on the package. To earn the seal, a manufacturer must supply data confirming the effectiveness of a product.

It wasn't always so. Writing in a professional journal, a dentist who collects dental artifacts told of unearthing a small bottle dating from the late 1800s. It bore a product name as well as that of a state dental society. Years later, in an antique shop, he found a cardboard box for the product. It held no bottle, but an insert related the product's uses: a cure for "spongy gums," "offensive breath," and other ills of teeth and gums. Moreover, it promised "immediate relief from indigestion, dyspepsia and formation of gases in the stomach." In those days, you didn't have to prove it.

Brought to you as a public service by Dr. Stephen R. Jacaparo, D.M.D., 1379 Main St., Agawam, MA 01001, (413) 786-8177.

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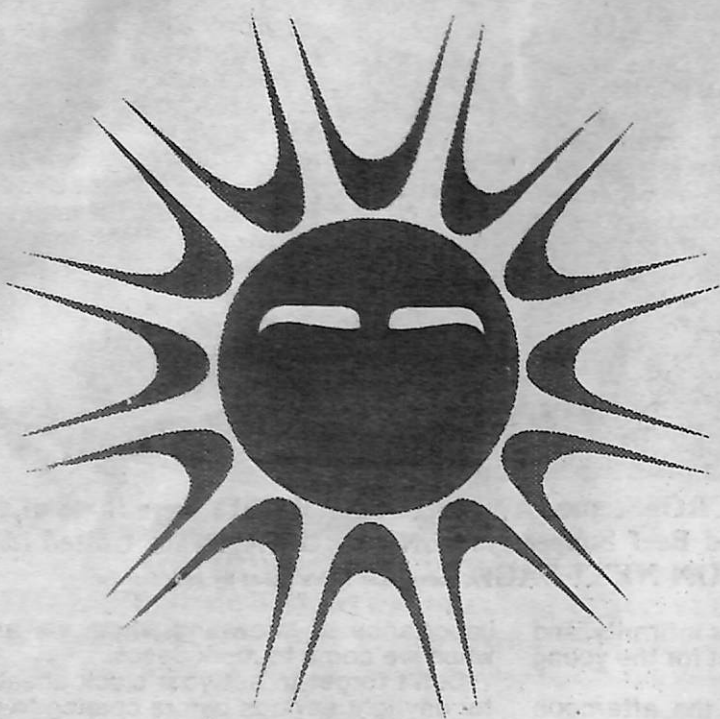
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SPRING SCHOOL VACATION

KID'S KAMP

BY DAY OR BY WEEK at FITNESS FIRST
APRIL 15 - 19!

*Let Fitness First entertain your children during this spring Vacation!
Fitness First's Kid's Kamp will run the entire week of vacation April 15-19 for
children of members and non-members from 10 am - 2 pm each day! You may pick
and choose the days or sign them up for the whole week and save! They'll have a ball
swimming and playing games - and even make a few new friends along the way!*

*\$90/week or \$20 per day for Fitness First members
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*Swimming!
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*Indoor & outdoor sports!
Arts & Crafts!
Fun Kamp Experience!*

*Applications available at Fitness First. Stop by or call 786-1460.
Deadline for all applications is Thursday, April 11th.*



Church News - continued...

St. David's Lists Full Slate Of Holy Week Events

THE SACRED "TRIDUUM," THE REMEMBRANCE OF THE LAST DAYS OF JESUS' EARTHLY LIFE BEGINS THURSDAY, APRIL 4th. St. David's Episcopal Church has scheduled worship services and special events for you to meet the God who has suffered, died, and is risen to life for all.

We invite you to join us at our church building, 522 Springfield Street, Feeding Hills, for all of these events, except our Easter Sunday service at 10:00 a.m., which will be held in the Agawam Middle School.

"Maundy" Thursday, April 4th is a day to remember the "command" ("mandatum") Jesus gave to His disciples at His last supper with them: "Love one another as I have loved you." (John 15:12)

We will observe this commandment and remember this Last Supper as we gather for a simple meal of soup and bread at 5:30 p.m., followed by a simple service of Holy Communion at 7:00 p.m. Child care will be provided. Those interested in attending the meal should contact the Parish Office at 786-6133.

"Good" Friday, April 5th was the worst day of all, when Jesus died, and yet has become a good day for all by guaranteeing the forgiveness of our sins at the cross. We will have a 45-minute service for children in the morning at 10:00 a.m., explaining the unique events of this day, and remembering the Way of the Cross which Jesus walked.

At 12:00, we will have Noonday Prayers, followed by a quiet Prayer Vigil for Non-violence in our world. At 2:30 p.m., Evening Prayer will recall the darkness at His death, and give thanks.

In the evening, at 7:00 p.m., we will re-enact the events of Jesus' last day by walking in the Way of the Cross together, also known as "Stations of the Cross."

"Holy" Saturday, April 6th is the "quiet day" in the story, the Jewish Sabbath, when Jesus' body lay in death in the tomb, awaiting the Resurrection. We will preview His triumph at a brief morning Eucharist at 11:00 a.m. for those unable to get

Kitchen Helpers At Methodist Church



CARMEN GRANADO, BEV CROSS, and LYNN MONTGOMERY were three of the smiling helpers at the recent Corned Beef Supper sponsored by the Agawam United Methodist Church. RELATED PHOTOS ON NEXT PAGE. Advertiser News photo by Jack Devine.

to full Easter services due to age or infirmity, and at a late afternoon Family Eucharist for the young at heart at 5:00 p.m.

Child care will be provided for the afternoon service, and special gifts will be given to all children in attendance.

Celebrate Easter Sunday, April 7th by joining us at either of two celebrations: the 8:00 a.m. Traditional Service features singing and communion; the 10:00 a.m. Contemporary Service features singing, a time for prayer and praise, the Senior Choir, and communion.

Child care will be available for the later service. At both services, the Pastor will speak about the

importance of knowing whom we are seeking when we come to meet Jesus.

Don't forget to set your clock ahead one hour for daylight savings before coming to worship.

EASTER CONTINUES AT ST. DAVID'S for seven full weeks after this Sunday, until we celebrate the first outpouring of the Holy Spirit on the Day of Pentecost.

Those new to the faith or to the church may want to take part in one of the parish Bible studies or small groups, in order to deepen the awareness of the Risen Jesus in our midst.

Full details are available by calling the Parish Office at 786-6133.



The Westfield Theatre Group
a department of the Westfield Woman's Club

presents

Rodgers & Hammerstein's Cinderella

Music by Richard Rodgers
Book & Lyrics by Oscar Hammerstein II

Directed by
Bob Laviolette

Musical Director
Karen Dion

Co-Choreographers
Stacy Ashley
Alison Forance

APRIL
12, 13, 19, 20,
26, 27 at 8:00 P.M.

PLUS
Special Matinees
April 20 & 27 at 2:00 P.M.

All performances at the
Westfield Woman's Club, 28 Court Street, Westfield
Tickets — \$10, \$8 for students & seniors
(general admission seating)

For more information and Group Sales

Call 572-6838



Wishing you a Happy Easter

Dr. Tami Nelson
Hampden County Chiropractic
850 Springfield Street
Feeding Hills, MA 01030
786-4820



Church News - continued...

Corned Beef Supper At Methodist Church



THE AGAWAM METHODIST CHURCH held a Corned Beef & Cabbage Supper recently. IN PHOTO LEFT, Kevin Telford was one of the helpers at the supper; IN PHOTO RIGHT, Russell & Joan Jenks were part of the large group who attended the supper. RELATED PHOTO ON PREVIOUS PAGE. Advertiser News photos by Jack Devine.

Boston College Athletic Director To Guest Speak At Knights Of Columbus Communion Breakfast

The Knights of Columbus Communion Breakfast will be held Sunday, April 14th. Mass will be celebrated at Sacred Heart Church in Feeding Hills at 9:00 a.m., with breakfast to follow at 10:30 a.m., at Maria's Restaurant, 605 Silver Street, Agawam. Guest speaker will be Chet Gladchuk, athletic director at Boston College. Tickets are \$8 for adults and \$4 for children and may be obtained by calling Jim Jenks at 786-0857 or Frank Meagher at 786-8023. The public is cordially invited.

Easter Message At First Baptist Church

"Lord of All" will be the Easter message presented by Pastor Richard Barnes to celebrate Easter morning at First Baptist.

The 9:30 a.m. service will also feature special Easter anthems by the choir. The chancel area will be decorated with lilies and other Spring plants in profusion. There will be a celebration of baptism with three candidates.

Nursery care is available during morning worship time. A social hour will follow the service, but no regular church school classes will be held.

Come and celebrate the renewal of life with us, but don't forget to set your clocks ahead on Saturday night.

This week at First Baptist:

Monday, April 8th: 7:30 p.m., Social Action Committee; 7:30 p.m., Nominating Committee meets at the home of Jeanne Webster.

Tuesday, April 9th: 10:00 a.m., Searchlighters Circle meets at the home of Dorothy Smith; 1:15 p.m., EZ Does It Aerobics Class; 6:00 p.m., Long Range Planning Committee.

Wednesday, April 10th: 7:15 a.m., Mid-Week Prayer Time; 10:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m., Trading Post Open.

Thursday, April 11th: 12:00 noon, Our ladies are guests of Agawam Congregational Church Ladies Aid - luncheon; 1:15 p.m., EZ Does It Aerobics Class.

Friday, April 12th: 7:00 p.m., Junior Youth Group Sleepover to 9:00 a.m. Saturday.

Caring Connection contacts for the month of April are Gwen and Jack Magovern, 786-3542. Call them if you have caring needs.

The Spring meeting of the American Baptist Churches of Pioneer Valley will be held on Sunday, April 21st at First Park Memorial Baptist Church (corner of Forest Park Ave. & Garfield Street, Springfield). Registration is at 4:00 p.m.

Call the church office if you wish to attend, 786-7300.

Save the date - Friday, April 26th, if you are planning to attend the Mother-Daughter banquet. The event will be held in Bodurtha Hall at 6:00 p.m. Reservations should be made by April 21st.



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Left to right: Bob Michel, Glenn McCarthy and Rosemary Morin
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Spotlight On Business



"From The Tax Attorney"

by
Paul Louis Mancinone
Certified Public
Accountant
Attorney At Law
(203) 668-6559

Question 1: During the past year, we've made some improvements on our home. Of the \$25,000 we spent on a new addition during 1995, we've paid five percent in Massachusetts sales tax. Can we deduct state sales tax on our 1995 income tax return?

Answer: Unfortunately, sales tax is not a deductible item for federal or state individual income tax purposes. This valuable deduction was taken away in the Tax Reform Act of 1986. However, all is not quite lost. The cost of any improvements, coupled with any sales tax paid, are added to the cost basis of the home. This could eventually provide a tax benefit to you when and if the home is ever sold.

Basically, the taxes that are deductible, for those who itemize deductions on Schedule A, are state income taxes, and real and personal property taxes.

Question 2: I'm trying to assist my parents in preparing their 1995 income tax returns. Their home is completely paid for, but they still pay real estate taxes, along with water bills, sewer taxes, etc. Are these deductible, even though the home is paid off?

Answer: Real estate and personal property taxes (i.e., on automobiles) are deductible on Schedule A. The water bill and sewer taxes, however, are not. It is important to keep an eye on the standard deduction (\$3,900 for single taxpayers, \$6,500 for those married filing jointly). Absent significant charitable contributions and/or large medical expenses, it may be a better alternative to use the standard deduction, rather than itemize deductions. Do a quick calculation of itemized deductions, and compare with the applicable standard deduction, for the best result.

Nancy Albert From United Coop Bank Named "Woman of the Year" By Partnership

Nancy Albert, community relations officer of United Cooperative Bank, has been named Women of the Year by the Women's Partnership within the Greater Springfield Chamber of Commerce. The announcement was made at the March 20th luncheon meeting of the Women's Partnership by Sylvia Nadeau-Poole, president.

Albert, of Agawam, is a Springfield native and has been a United Cooperative Bank employee for 36 years. She joined the Bank in 1960 as a mortgage processing clerk, later serving as a bookkeeping supervisor, operations officer, systems and training officer, assistant vice president, and branch manager before assuming her current position in 1994.

The Partnership annually presents the Woman of the Year award to a woman in the Greater Springfield area who exemplifies the ideals of personal achievement and service to the community, which guide the organization itself.

Albert has distinguished herself as a community leader who has served a variety of organizations in a number of capacities. She is a longtime member of the Exchange Club of Springfield, which works to prevent child abuse, and is currently serving as division director of New England District Exchange Clubs. She is a former director and past president of the organization and continues to produce its weekly newsletter.

A tireless advocate for the elderly, Albert is currently involved in the Massachusetts TRIAD, a group that partners senior citizens with prominent members of the law enforcement community to address concerns of elders and provide information to help empower them.

TRIAD, which Albert describes as the "workhorse" of the SALT (Seniors and Law Enforcement Together) Council, is a community initiative involving seniors, law enforcement and human service providers. She is the only TRIAD member from private industry.

In an effort to prevent financial exploitation of seniors, she makes a point to keep abreast of different scams that they may unwittingly be involved in, alerts front-line bank personnel to watch for certain signs, and gives pointers on how they can provide help and support.

Encouraging good banking habits in children, Albert coordinated the "Saving Makes Cents" program, an elementary school savings plan in the Glenwood School in Springfield and the Highland School in Westfield.

She tutors children at the Talmadge School in Springfield and is active in the read aloud program in the Springfield School System. Albert also served as a tutor at the York Street House of Correction and later the Correctional Facility at Stony Brook.

A former director of Big Brothers/Big Sisters, Albert is past secretary and board member of the South End Business Association and is active in Channel 57 fundraising activities. In addition, she is a longtime member and past parliamentarian of the Hampden County Legal Secretaries Association and a past national director of National Association of Legal Secretaries, International.

Albert is historian of the Women's Partnership and served as the organization's president from 1975-76 as well as treasurer and secretary. She is a member of the Speakers Bureau and has served as a mentor for women re-entering the workforce through the Reaching Goals program.

Albert's numerous other affiliations include Junior Achievement's Project Business, The Institute of Financial Education, and the Springfield School Volunteers. She is a member of the Chamber of Commerce Breakfast Club committee, is an active participant in the annual pancake breakfast, and has volunteered for many Spirit of Springfield activities.

Nadeau-Poole, in her remarks, referred to Albert as a "quiet force" who unselfishly gives of her time and experience to the community.

"I am pleased to recognize the kindness, hard work, and dedicated spirit of Nancy Albert. Through her efforts, our community is a better place in which to live," she said.

Albert will be honored at the annual banquet of the Women's Partnership to be held on Wednesday, May 15th, at Chez Josef in Agawam.

For information on attending the banquet and Woman of the Year award ceremony, contact Marilyn Feldman at the Chamber of Commerce, (413) 787-1555.

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**360 Springfield Street
Agawam**

Spotlight On Business - continued...**Century 21**by
John Schuler
Real Estate
Consultant**Newschu Real Estate, Inc.**
820 Suffield Street, Agawam, MA**Buyer Brokerage?**

You decide it's the right time for you to buy a home. You look at advertisements in the local homes magazine and newspaper, drive around searching for "For Sale" signs. Eventually you find a home that appears like something you would like to see. You call the real estate company that has it listed and they show you the home. This procedure continues over several weeks. You call numerous real estate companies and visit many homes. Finally, you find a home and fall in love with it and make an offer. You may think the agent you are working with is looking out for you. This may not be the case.

As a result of widespread misconceptions about who a real estate agent represents, the buyer, seller, or both, buyer brokerage came about. Industry surveys nationwide consistently have shown that nearly 75 percent of all homebuyers, and about the same percentage of sellers believe that the agents that show homes to the buyers work for the buyer. However, the fact is that the majority of real estate agents work for the sellers and represent the sellers' best interest.

Consider a couple who has been working with a traditional real estate agent (Seller's Agent) in finding a home. Over the course of several weeks, the agent spends time showing the couple 10 or 12 homes, discussing their needs, and spending a great deal of time with them. Because of the time they spend together, they get to know each other and form a trust. But when the agent shows them a home they wish to purchase, the agent is obligated by law to work for the seller's best interest, even if the agent has never met the seller.

Most states have agency disclosure laws that require real estate agents to disclose their relationship as agents of the buyer, agents of the seller, or both. Massachusetts agency disclosure laws require all real estate agents to disclose their agency relationship to buyers and sellers at the first face-to-face meeting.

Buyer brokers are contracted to be the buyer's advocate and represent the buyer's best interest. Buyer's brokers give buyers the ability to find out

a variety of information which the seller's agent cannot provide. Buyer's agents are free to discuss the value of properties, negotiate strategies and financing. Buyers can obtain their agent's opinions regarding the condition of the property, the effect of improvements, and the seller's motivation for selling. A buyer's agent can verify the property information listed with the Multiple Listing Service and do a Comparable Market Analysis on the property. Most importantly, only a buyer's agent can legally negotiate in favor of the buyer, placing the buyer's interest first.

So, is there a cost for a buyer's broker services? Compensation is handled differently by each company that offers buyer representation. However, in most cases, the fees are included in the selling price of the home and paid to the buyer's broker at the time of closing, therefore there are no additional costs to the buyer or seller.

Buyer brokerage (buyer representation) may be the most important change in real estate in many years. It puts the buyers on equal footing with sellers and even more important, everyone is represented equally.

Riverside Park Ready For Big Opening On Sat., April 13th

Riverside Amusement Park, located in Agawam, will open for the 1996 season on April 13, 1996.

This will be the 57th season of continuous operation for the amusement park owned by the Edward J. Carroll, Jr. family. The park has been a family-owned company from its opening in 1940.

Any information regarding the sale, negotiation, or purchase of Riverside Amusement Park should be regarded as completely false.

Riverside Amusement Park has employed over 8,000 people since 1990 and approximately 15,000 people since the park's opening in 1940. Riverside, the largest seasonal employer in the state, has been a consistent and rewarding employer to Massachusetts and Connecticut residents for many years.

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Spotlight On Business - continued...

Westfield Savings
Helps Ag. Library

DONNA CAMPBELL (seated), director of the Agawam Library, demonstrates by library's new Gateway Pentium Computer to Joan Brouillette, manager of the Agawam Office of Westfield Savings Bank. Funding for the computer, in the amount of \$2,500, was contributed as a public service by Westfield Savings Bank. A "state-of-the-art" computer, according to Ms. Campbell, the unit has broad capabilities and will be available to the public for a variety of tasks. Advertiser News photo by Jack Devine.

Riverside Park Award



ROCKY PICARD of Riverside Park's Maintenance Department recently received a "Creativity Award" for his creativity in taking an old, tired, and crummy kiddie swing ride and redesigned and retooled it to create a new and exciting ride for the kids. Congratulating Rocky is T.C. Freeman (left), director of Maintenance. Advertiser News photo by Jack Devine.

Joanne Szymanski

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Pam Savioli Named "Top Associate"
In Feeding Hills By Landry, Lyons, & Whyte

Pam Savioli was recently named "Top Associate" of the Feeding Hills office of LANDRY, LYONS & WHYTE Co./Better Homes and Gardens for 1995, at their annual Kick-Off Breakfast held at the Springfield Country Club. Pam participated in 50 transactions totaling \$6.5 million.

Pam attributes her success to the support of her family, the cooperation of her fellow Realtors, and the trust and loyalty of her customers and clients. She also had a strong commitment to

listening to and caring about people's real estate wants and needs.

If you are in the market to buy or sell a home or a property, call Pam at (413) 786-0663.

LANDRY, LYONS & WHYTE Co./Better Homes and Gardens is the largest real estate firm in the Pioneer Valley and has over 225 Sales Associates and 11 offices with locations in Chicopee, Feeding Hills, Longmeadow, Palmer, Sixteen Acres, West Springfield, Westfield, Wilbraham, South Hadley, Springfield, and East Longmeadow.

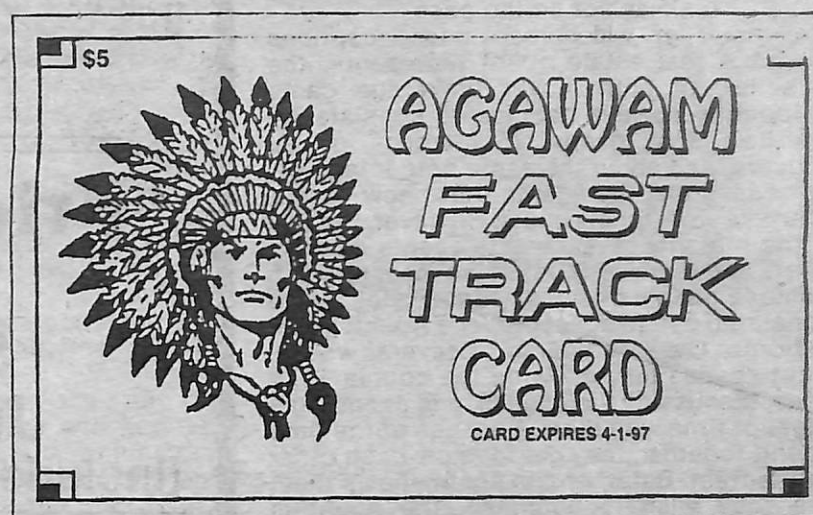
PLEASE REMEMBER that our deadline is every Tuesday at noontime. We appreciate those who bring in their copy

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12' or 15' Plush Saxony
36 Colorations
\$18.89 Sq. Yd.

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\$24.89 Sq. Yd.
Both Include Installation
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1 Color Only Available

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5 Lbs. Or More	\$2.39 Lb.
10 Lbs. Or More	\$1.99 Lb.
Boneless Rib Eye Steak	\$4.99 Lb.
Boneless Club Steak	\$5.29 Lb.
Fresh Ground Chuck	
5 Lbs. Or More	\$1.79 Lb.
10 Lbs. Or More	\$1.59 Lb.
Skinless & Boneless Chicken Breast	\$2.69 Lb.
Country Style Pork Ribs	\$1.49 Lb.

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Whole Boneless Rib Eyes	\$3.99 Lb.
Whole Boneless Top Rounds	\$1.89 Lb.
Whole Butt Tenderloins	\$4.19 Lb.

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Land O' Lakes White American Cheese	\$2.89 Lb.
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Russer Virginia Baked Ham	\$2.99 Lb.
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Mother Goose Liverwurst	\$2.39 Lb.
Thumann's Gourmet Turkey Breast	\$4.99 Lb.
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Sweet Life 1% Low Fat Milk (Gallon)	\$1.99
Sweet Life 2% Low Fat Milk (Gallon)	\$2.09
Hood Half & Half (Quarts)99¢

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31-40 Ct.	\$8.99 Lb.
2 Lb. Bag	\$17.49
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Bananas49¢ Lb.
Fresh Strawberries (Pint)	\$1.19

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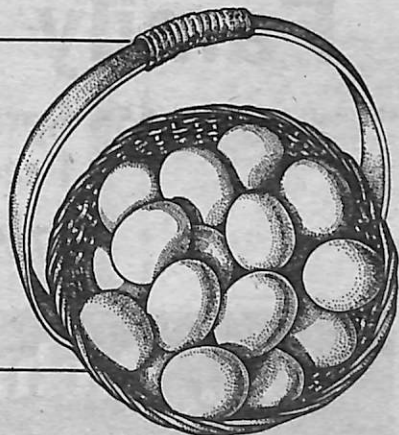


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Hood Label Whole Milk (Gallons Only) - \$2.39
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For Your Health



Food for Thought

by Nancy Dell
Registered Dietician

The Better Bean...

While tofuburgers and soy milkshakes sound like leftovers from the '60s, a recent meta-analysis of 38 clinical studies shows that soy is not "has-bean."

In analyzing the records of 730 people, researchers found consumption of 17 to 25 grams of soy protein a day significantly reduced low-density lipoproteins (LDL), or "bad" cholesterol, levels in the blood—without lowering levels of high-density lipoproteins (HDL), or "good" cholesterol—according to the study published in the *New England Journal of Medicine* (August 3, 1995).

In people who ate soy protein, total cholesterol levels fell an average of 9.3 percent, LDL levels decreased 12.9 percent, and serum triglycerides declined 10.5 percent.

"Such reductions could reduce heart disease risk by 18 to 23 percent," said James W. Anderson, MD, of the Veterans Affairs Medical Center in Lexington, KY, and author of the study.

Soy's cholesterol-lowering effect was much greater in people whose initial cholesterol levels were very high (exceeding 335 milligrams per deciliter) and in people who ate the largest amounts of the soy protein.

Here are some ways to add soy to your diet:

- * In baking recipes, use one-third cup of soy flour and two-thirds cup of wheat flour to make one cup of flour.
- * Put defatted soy milk on your cereal.
- * Use soy milk instead of cow's milk in recipes for cookies, cakes, and puddings.
- * Use soy protein powders to make beverages.
- * Use roasted soy nuts as a snack. They are readily available in most grocery stores.
- * Make fruit shakes with tofu or soy milk instead of cow's milk.
- * Add chunks of tofu or tempeh (fermented soybean cake) or both to stir-fried vegetables.
- * Eat imitation meat products—"hot dogs" and "hamburgers"—made primarily with soy.
- * Use dried soybeans as you would other dried beans, such as navy beans. Put them in casseroles, stews, and soups.

* Substitute textured vegetable protein to replace part or all of the ground beef, pork, or veal in meatloaf, casseroles, tacos, spaghetti sauce, sloppy joes, and chili. TVP or TSP (textured soy protein), as it's called, comes in granular or chunk form, which when rehydrated, resembles ground beef or stew meat.

Nancy Dell, MS, is the Media Representative for the Western Mass. Dietetic Association and a Registered Dietitian with a private practice in Feeding Hills. She can be reached at (413) 786-2957.

Living Well...

Exercise And Diabetes

by Barb Vinciguerra, M.S.
General Manager
Fitness First Health and Fitness Center

According to the American Diabetic Association, diabetes is a disease that affects nearly 14 million Americans. Unfortunately, more than half are unaware that they are afflicted.

There are numerous health implications associated with diabetes: stroke, nerve damage, heart disease, and blindness are some. Health care costs associated with diabetes are an estimated \$92 billion annually.

Within the past few years, however, there has been a significant amount of research conducted in the area of exercise and its relationship to the prevention and delay of Type II or non-insulin dependent diabetes (NIDDM).

Researchers at the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute in Honolulu studied approximately 6,000 men for six years and found that those that were the most active had a 50 percent lower risk of developing diabetes than did the least active.

Another study conducted by researchers at the University of Maryland and the Baltimore Geriatric Center, found that strength training also aided in the prevention or postponement of diabetes in older adults. These are examples of two studies amongst many that have supported the benefits of exercise in the prevention or control of diabetes.

How does exercise help those individuals with Type II diabetes? One way is that it helps with glucose tolerance and insulin sensitivity, so that less insulin has to be secreted from the pancreas.

Exercise usually helps to lower blood sugar and may help insulin to work better. Exercise is also a great way to help reduce fat deposits and increase lean body mass, which is important as obesity is frequently associated with diabetes.

Remember, before beginning any type of exercise program, please consult with your physician and health fitness professional. If you suffer from Type I or insulin-dependent diabetes (IDDM), you may also benefit greatly from an exercise program. Also along with the importance of exercise in combating diabetes is a proper dietary intake as well.

If you have any other questions concerning this or any other health and fitness topics, please write to me at Fitness First, 60 North Westfield Street, Feeding Hills, MA 01030.

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Your Back And Your Health

by Dr. Joseph
S. Schlaffer
Schlaffer
Chiropractic Offices
192 Shoemaker Lane
Agawam

Numbness In Arms And Hands?

Question: Can a doctor of chiropractic do anything for numbness in the arms and hands? I've been applying heat and even exercising, but it only helps temporarily.

Answer: The cause of the problem may not be in your arm/hand at all. It is common to experience numbness and tingling sensations in the fingers or other parts of the upper limbs when a nerve is compressed in the neck.

The nerves exit from the spine and then branch into the shoulders, arms, and hands. This large plexus of nerve fibers is known as the brachial plexus.

It provides you with the ability to move your arms (motor function) and the ability to feel temperature and give you your sense of touch (sensory). When these nerves are compressed or pinched, arm and hand problems (including numbness) are likely to follow.

The condition, called vertebral subluxation, describes a problem that is much more common than previously thought. Unfortunately, it is often overlooked.

Commonly the alignment of the vertebrae is disturbed so that pinching of nerves may occur. Neck, shoulder, and arm pain or numbness may occur in the weeks and months to follow.

Some late manifestations of this condition may show up on x-ray examination. Localized arthritis and degenerative joint disease in the cervical spine (neck) often accompany chronic numbness problems.

Corrective chiropractic treatment following careful examination of the problem areas is recommended to remove the cause of the numbness. Our facility is conveniently located at 192 Shoemaker Lane, Agawam — 789-1369.

Diabetic Education At Mercy Hospital

A series of diabetic education programs will be offered in April by the Patient Education Department at Mercy Hospital.

The free hour-long programs will be conducted on four consecutive days, beginning April 8th, at 2:30 p.m. in the Deliso Conference Center. Topics include: "Introduction to Diabetes," "Diet and Diabetes," "Medications Used in the Treatment of Diabetes," and "Complications Related to Diabetes."

Registration is required. For more information, call the Patient Education Department, (413) 748-9024, between 8:00 and 9:00 a.m. weekdays, or leave a message.



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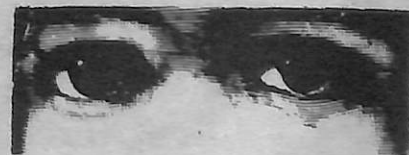
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For Your Health - continued...

Noble Hospital's Support Group Mtgs. For Month Of April

Noble Hospital in Westfield is offering the following support group meetings during the month of April:

Stroke Support Group for Families: Wednesday, April 10th, 5:30 p.m. in the Bronson Music Room.

Stroke Support Group for Patients and Families: Wednesday, April 17th, 5:30 p.m. in the Bronson Music Room. For information on all Stroke Groups, call Karen Reidl, 572-5151.

Better Breather's Support Group: Monday, April 8th, 2:00 p.m., Auditorium. For information, call Tom Tremblay, 568-2811.

Crohn's & Colitis Support Group: Tuesday, April 16th, 7:00 p.m., Auditorium. For information, call Marketing Dept., 568-2811, ext. 5577.

Cancer Support Group: Thursday, April 18th, 7:00 p.m., Auditorium A. For information, call Ana Nunez, 568-2811, ext. 5698.

Diabetes Support Group: Tuesday, April 23rd, 1:00 p.m., Auditorium A. For information, call Gayle O'Hara, SDC, 568-2811, ext. 5687.

Women's Health Focus Of Program At Mercy Hospital

Women's health issues, "Taking Charge of Your Body," will be the focus of a presentation by Janice Canegallo, R.N., Director of Mercy Hospital's Women's Pavilion, on Thursday, April 11th at 7:00 p.m. in Sacred Heart Parish Center.

Included will be a discussion of menopause, osteoporosis, mammograms, and instruction in breast self-examination.

All women are encouraged to come with their teenage daughters and their questions to take advantage of this essential information for prevention and/or control of these common and potentially serious health problems.

This evening is sponsored by The Community Life Commission and is free and open to the public.

Please remember that Jack Devine needs at least 48 hours notice.

Happy Sweet 16th Birthday, Julie!



Love,
Mom, Dad, and Dom



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A regular walking program, at least 30 minutes a day, three days a week, can benefit the body in many ways.

1. Walking strengthens muscles and tendons in the feet, so they may hurt less often.
2. Walking helps discourage the onset and progression of varicose veins.
3. Walking helps decrease the likelihood of osteoporosis by producing thicker, stronger bones.
4. Walking may help relieve back pain by strengthening and toning muscles which make the spine more stable.
5. Walking benefits the heart by lowering pulse, reducing blood pressure decreasing levels of artery-clogging blood fats!
6. Walking can strengthen muscles of the diaphragm, reduce symptoms of chronic em-

physema and bronchitis, and reduce the desire to smoke.

7. Walking can burn nearly as many calories per mile as jogging, decrease metabolism, curb appetite, and boost self-confidence. ISN'T THIS ENOUGH TO GET YOU MOTIVATED TO GET OUT THERE AND DO IT?!

Before you do:

- Good shoes are important. Invest in a quality pair, choose walking shoes with a firm heel cup for stability, a rocker sole to enhance a smooth toe-to-heel motion, and plenty of room for toes so they can spread out as they push off.

- Don't forget to stretch. Walk for five to 10 minutes until you are warm (warm muscles respond better to stretches than cold), then stop for the following static (no bouncing) stretches five times, 20 seconds each, for each leg. Repeat at the end of the walk.

Archilles tendon and calf—With both hands against a wall or tree, place one foot well behind you. Keeping the rear leg straight and its heel on the ground, lean in toward the wall or tree.

Quadriceps—Put one hand on a wall or tree for balance and with the other hand, reach behind your back and grasp the ankle of the opposite leg. Pull it up toward your buttocks until you feel tension along the front of your thigh.

Hamstring—Stand on one leg; prop the other leg parallel to the ground on a fence or table. Slide both hands toward the propped-up ankle as far as they will go.

Mobile Hearing Unit Heading For Senior Ctr.

Mercy Hospital's Weldon Mobile Hearing Center will conduct a free hearing screening and hearing aid checks on Monday, April 8th and again on Monday, April 29th at the Agawam Senior Center at 9:00 a.m.

In addition, full diagnostic hearing tests, evaluations, fittings, sales and service of hearing

aids, and assistive-listening devices, can be scheduled on a fee-for-service basis.

The hearing van's audiology equipment is operated by nationally certified audiologists from the Weldon Hearing Center at Mercy Hospital.

For a reservation, call 786-0400, ext. 242.

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Arts

Vacation Drama Camp Still Has Opening For Kids 8-15 Years

Applications are still being accepted for STAGE's April school vacation Theatre Camp (April 15th-19th).

The camp is open to young theatre enthusiasts between eight and 15 years of age who'll attend everyday from 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. in preparation for four public performances of "Dragon of the Winds," an original stage play based on an ancient Japanese folktale.

The productions are scheduled for April 19th and 20th at 7:30 p.m., and April 20th and 21st at 2:00 p.m. The camp and the four performances will be held at The Red Door Theatre, 152 S. Westfield Street, Feeding Hills, MA (next to the Valley Community Church on the hill).

Those interested in participating in this unique children's theatre drama camp may call 789-2026.

STAGE is an eight year-old organization operated by Margie Secora and Lyle Pearsons, who also run Creative Dramatics classes for four through seven year-olds; a Teen Ensemble Theatre; and the Hilltop Players Family Theatre.

Agawam Garden Club To Hear Speaker From Stanley Park

Mark LaVoie, superintendent of Stanley Park, Westfield, will be the guest speaker for the Agawam Garden Club following the April 8th meeting at 7:30 p.m. at the Captain Charles Leonard House on Main Street.

LaVoie has moved up through several positions at the park and his present responsibility involves overseeing horticultural and civic activities within the park. He will address the Agawam group on "Incorporating Summer Flowering Bulbs in the Perennial Garden."

A social hour will follow under the direction of Hospitality co-chairpersons Nancy Smith and Terry Angotti. Anyone interested in the subject is invited to attend.

Agawam High's Class Of 1981 To Form Reunion Committee

Attention, Agawam High School class of 1981—a reunion committee is forming!

On Tuesday, April 23, 1996, a meeting will be held at 7:15 p.m. in the Community Room of the Agawam Public Library.

If you would like to be part of the reunion committee but are unable to attend the meeting, please call either Nancy O'Keefe, 786-7738, or Dawn Uschmann (Negrucci), 786-3904.

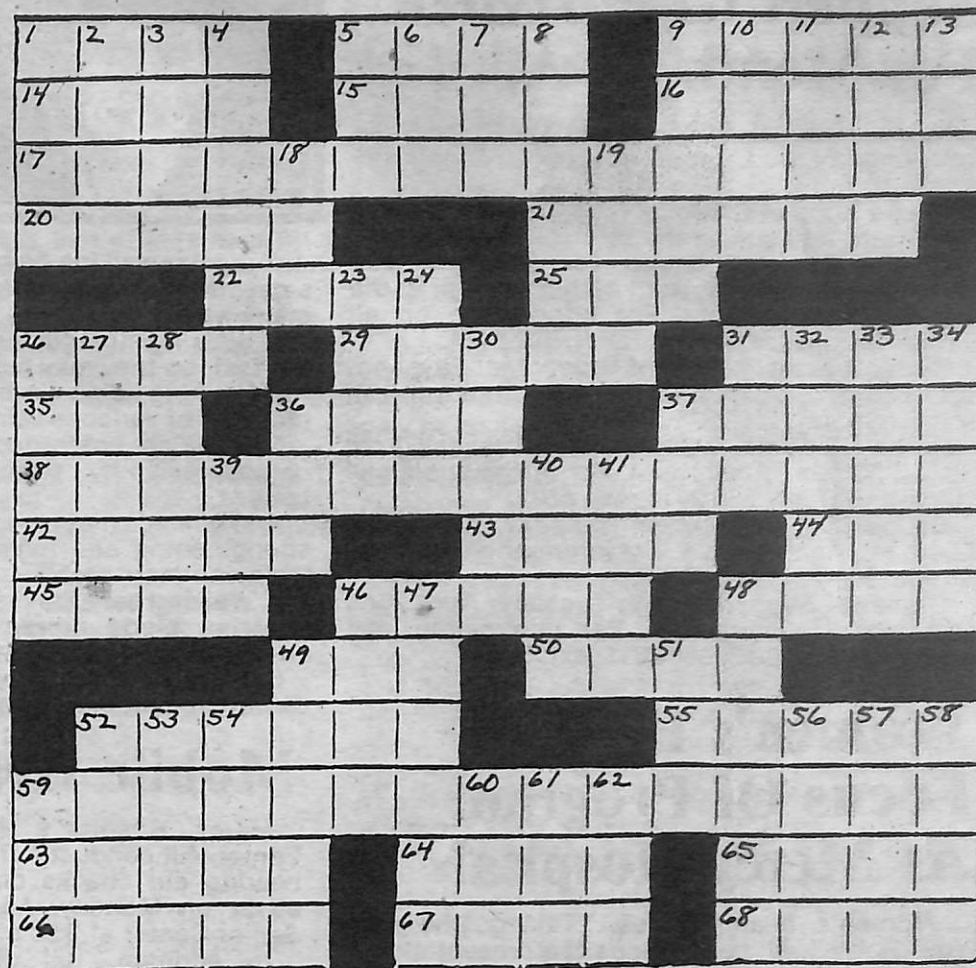
MEET THE MASTER - by Dick Mastroianni

ACROSS

- 1 Part of U.S.A. (abbr.)
- 5 Dix or Ord
- 9 Bring forth
- 14 Wash
- 15 General Bradley
- 16 Employer
- 17 A touch of Mexico?
- 20 He played Mary's boss
- 21 Poems often
- 22 Crafts' partner
- 25 Wide shoe size
- 26 Window part
- 29 Corridors
- 31 "Stand at —"
- 35 Compass heading
- 36 Lop off
- 37 Not rural
- 38 Where Marlon Brando tolled?
- 42 Reinforce the front lines
- 43 Butter sub
- 44 Churchill's sign
- 45 Low card
- 46 Man with an army
- 48 German mister
- 49 Salutation
- 50 "— breve"
- 52 Bread units
- 55 Chemical compound
- 59 Dorothy's lament in Oz?
- 63 Vocal exams
- 64 Al Capp's hyena
- 65 Cleveland's water-front
- 66 Sub-lease
- 67 Temporary outlay
- 68 Vend

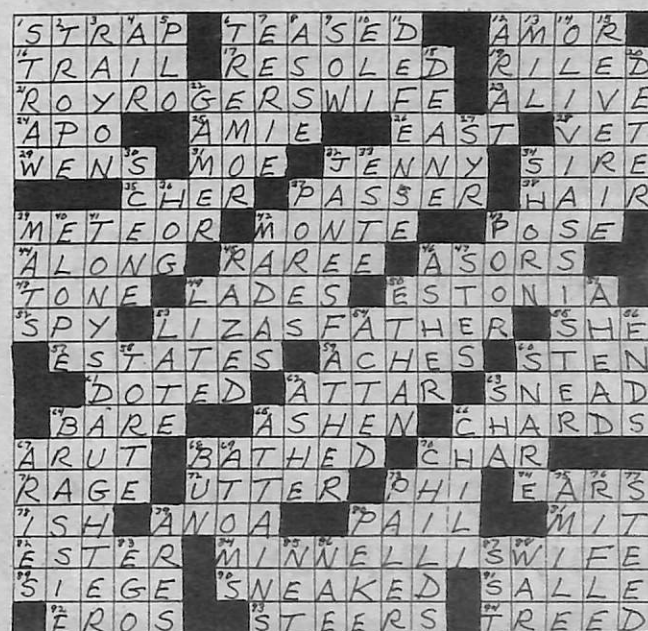
DOWN

- 1 Singer Gluck
- 2 Willy of baseball
- 3 Welsh name
- 4 Pass out cards again
- 5 Watch pocket
- 6 Home in Soho
- 7 Stadium cheer
- 8 Retiree's pleasure
- 9 County counterpart in England
- 10 Simple Simon's de-light
- 11 English composer
- 12 Marries
- 13 Rifleman's org.
- 18 Bruin great Bobby
- 19 Third letters
- 23 End of winter event
- 24 Teasdale of poetry
- 26 Stable sound
- 27 Tube or sanctum
- 28 "— call you sweetheart"
- 30 Pretend
- 31 Go wrong
- 32 Higher in the hierarchy
- 33 More rational
- 34 Go in



Last Week's Solution...

- 36 Writing tool
- 37 Alf's ship
- 39 Make it while the sun shines
- 40 A.K.A. Lamb
- 41 Rod's partner
- 46 With (Fr.)
- 47 Mercantile effort
- 48 Yesterday's roasts today
- 49 Stop to a salt
- 51 Pinky or Peggy
- 52 Native knowledge
- 53 Ring stone
- 54 All in Bonn
- 56 Ripped
- 57 Actor Jannings
- 58 Virginia dance
- 59 Partner of neither
- 60 "— the lion"
- 61 "Once — blue moon"
- 62 Jayhawks' state



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Education

MIRROR, UNIQORN At Agawam High Get AIC's Top Honors

by Kathy Cassanelli
News Editor

Just as parents do, most teachers like nothing better than talking about their kids' successes. As the advisor to both Agawam High School student publications, English teacher Lawrence O'Brien has a lot to talk about these days. More accurately, O'Brien has a lot to brag about.

At the 25th Annual Scholastic Press Forum held at American International College last month, the MIRROR and the UNIQORN received top honors as the best overall student newspaper and best overall student literary magazine. The competition includes over 100 high schools from all over New England and New York.

This is the first time the MIRROR earned a first-place award at the AIC conference, but that's not the only first-place award received by the paper this year. In the fall, the MIRROR received the top honors at the student press forum sponsored by Holyoke Community College.

"I'm thrilled and really proud of these kids," O'Brien said. "This is by far the best staff I've ever had for writing and for doing in-depth stories. They really care about the MIRROR. It's not just another class to them."

O'Brien and his student editors agreed it was the MIRROR's commitment to tackling the controversial issues of the day both in and outside AHS (rather than merely reporting on the happenings at the school) that earned them their first-place trophies.

In addition to reporting on sports, entertainment, and news, the MIRROR typically focuses on one underlying theme as a unifying device to connect features, editorials, and news stories. Past editions have dealt with racism, gambling, substance abuse, and teen pregnancy.

O'Brien said the MIRROR staff is able to deal with serious and controversial subjects because the last two principals have given them free reign the delve into topics not normally addressed in student newspapers. "They trust our judge-



MEMBERS OF THE AGAWAM HIGH SCHOOL'S MIRROR staff and UNIQORN staff gather for a group photo. Both staffs received top honors at the recent Scholastic Press Forum at American International College last month. Advertiser News photo by Jack Devine.

O'Brien said.

Ironically, the lack of state-of-the-art desk top publishing capability may actually contribute to the paper's quality, according to Editor-in-Chief **Andy Markowski**.

Most schools use high-tech production methods while AHS is one of the few still using the cut and paste system. But, working so hard in manually laying out the pages may actually give the student editors and writers more opportunities to scrutinize and improve their work, Andy said.

News Editor **Justin Casalinghino** likened the staff to a family that argues over an issue, comes to an agreement, and then comes together to work unselfishly toward a common goal. Often, competition between staff members competing for more pages and more space brings out the best in everyone.

An integral part of the staff, Feature Editor **B.J. Cortis** knows what the students want to read about, isn't afraid to ask any question, and won't back down from "in your face reporting," according to his colleagues.

MIRROR photographers **Kamaris Lessard** and **Gina Markowski** won individual awards for excellence for their photos of featured student **Dan Viens** and gymnast **Becky White**, respectively.

Cara Rust won an excellence in writing award for her in-depth study of the lives of four teen mothers who were or had been students at AHS.

"It was an honest and realistic portrayal of the life of teen mothers," O'Brien said.

SEE AHS PUBLICATIONS - Page 38..

Dr. Michael Haynes Podiatrist

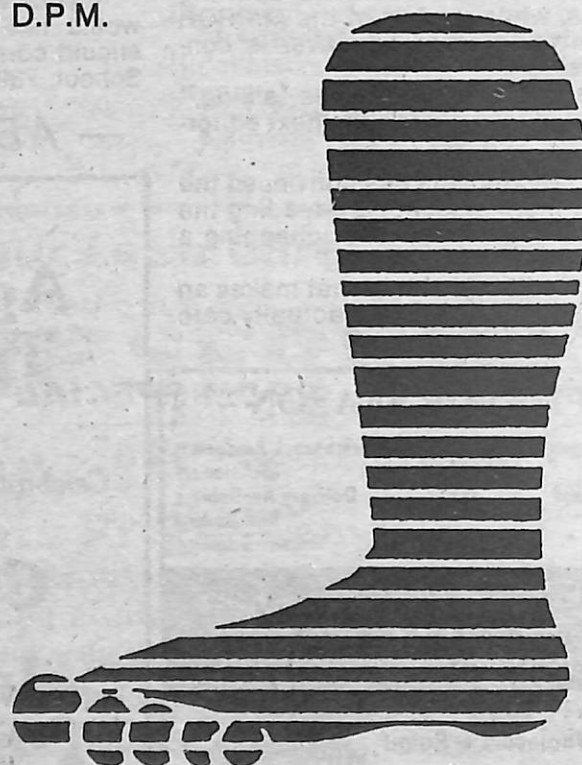
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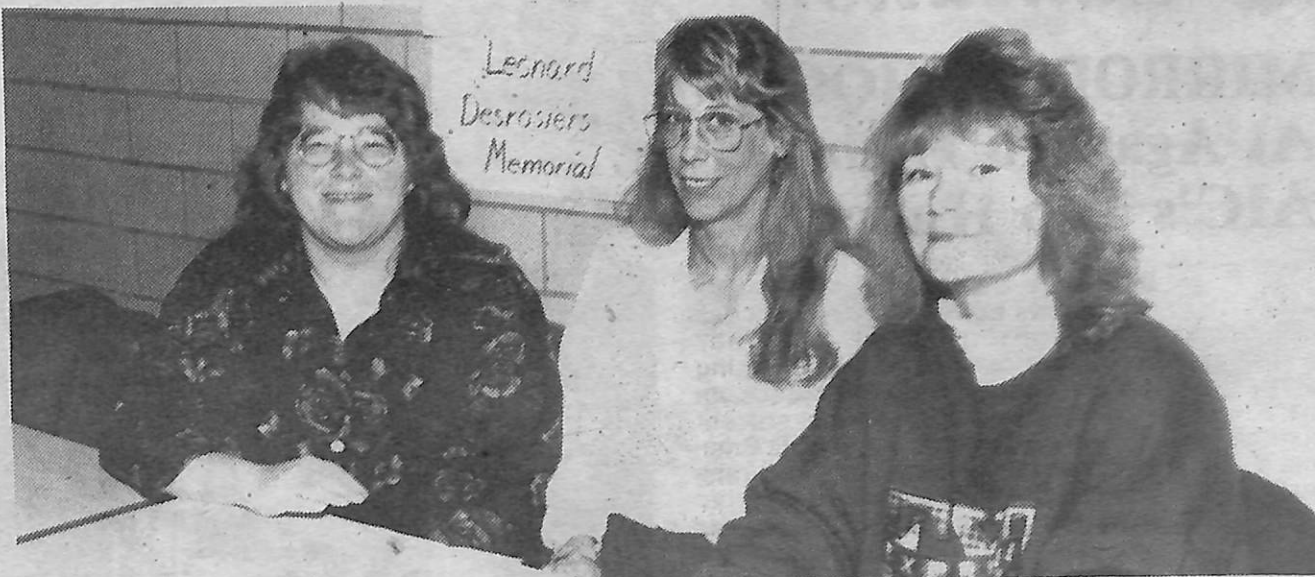
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Annual Scholarship Night Held At AHS



AGAWAM HIGH SCHOOL recently held a Scholarship Night to feature the endless stream of local scholarships available to graduating seniors in the class of 1996. From left - John Hyland, Jack Patterson, and Sharon Stratton were at the table representing the AHS girls' basketball and field hockey scholarships; IN PHOTO RIGHT, Kim George and Sue Gosselin were representing Heritage Hall Nursing Home while Debbie Roda was representing the James Clark PTO. Advertiser News photos by Jack Devine.

AHS PUBLICATIONS - from Page 37...

In addition to comparing their work with other student publications, the students attended seminars and workshops conducted by area professionals working in all aspects of mass communications.

Among the workshops students could choose from were investigative reporting, ethics in the media, creative writing, and feature writing.

Associate Editor-in-Chief Jeanne O'Neill said she picked up some tips on developing ideas for feature stories and strategies to help get to the human angle of a story. Dan Houle got some good advice on getting the story across, keeping people interested, and attracting an audience from talk radio host Dan Yorke.

Sharing the editing chores for the UNIQORN, Rose Oppedisano and Dan Barber agreed the professional look of their magazine brought the first-prize trophy for best overall magazine to AHS.

"Looking at the other entries, ours was by far the most professional," Rose said. "We're so proud of it."

With no budget from the school department, the UNIQORN staff relies on subscriptions to cover the cost of printing. "We're competing against schools with \$2,000 to \$3,000 in funding," Rose said.

This year, the UNIQORN is continuing in its attempt to publish more upbeat literary offerings rather than some of the more depressing poems and stories often dominating the magazine's pages in past years. One of the continuing challenges for the two editors is persuading other students to submit their work for publication.

"We have a lot of talent in this school, but a lot of kids don't like to submit things because they don't want their names to be published," Rose said.

Readers of the UNIQORN can look forward to more comic book characters and more uplifting stories and poems, while readers of the MIRROR can expect more reporting on whatever is considered controversial.

"Controversy is good. It gets people talking," said Jeanne, who will take over as the next editor-in-chief.

Feedback from the students has convinced the editorial staff that more students are reading the paper, and they have no intention of changing a winning formula.

According to the editor-in-chief, what makes an award-winning staff is "people who actually care about their work."



REPRESENTING AGAWAM UNICO'S Scholarship at the Agawam High Scholarship Night were Sal Morassi, Jr. (left) and Attorney Thomas Martinelli; Thomas Leahy and Mary Manning were representing the town's Democratic Town Committee. Advertiser News photo by Jack Devine.

Scholarship Concert At Agawam High Slated For April 9th

The Agawam High School Band will present its annual scholarship concert on Tuesday, April 9th, at 7:00 p.m. in the high school auditorium.

Admission for this event will be \$5. Proceeds from the concert will be used to award two band scholarships in memory of Lisa Ziegert.

Anyone who is unable to attend the concert but would like to donate to the scholarship fund, should contact Tammy Watson at Agawam High School, 789-1400, extension 410.

Local Students Attain Spring Honor Roll At Suffield Academy

The following Agawam and Feeding Hills students have been named to Suffield Academy's spring honor roll:

From Agawam: Jeffrey Beaudette (Grade 9, Honors), Sarah Cowan (Grade 9, Honors), and Erica Schiaffer (Grade 12, Honors).

From Feeding Hills: Christopher Knight (Grade 9, Honors), Michael Albro (Grade 10, Honors), and William Rivers (Grade 12, High Honors).

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Language Students At Agawam High Show Off Their Stuff

by Kathy Cassanelli
News Editor

As part of their annual celebration of world languages and culture, Agawam High School foreign language students traveled around the school collecting points for their passports to a better grade in class.

Even students not enrolled in the languages program had a chance to get in on the fun by sampling the foreign foods served each day by the cafeteria and through the door decorating contest.

Each seventh period class could join the contest by choosing a foreign country and decorating the wall around the classroom door to reflect that country's culture and geography.

Members of Nancy Kundt's French classes decorated the showcase using this year's theme, "Get Connected—Learn a Language," to demonstrate the concern for global awareness shared by the world language department. The slogan was submitted by Alyson Reid.

Among the highlights of the week were the mystery voice contest, the mystery national anthem contest, a trivia contest, Latin is everywhere, and the scavenger hunt. Organized by Spanish teacher Linda Sasso, the hunt had students scouring cabinets and closets for relatively ordinary objects like soap, a toothpick, a shoelace, and a rock. The trick was first to identify the language the clue was given in and then to find someone who could translate it! Scavenger hunt winners were Sara Drenzek, Tara Bowler, Mike Daigneau, Wesley Gutowski, Lisa Freeman, and Zac Mounemneh.

The World Languages Culture Night had to be postponed for nearly a week due to stormy weather, but nothing could have dampened the enthusiasm of the 150 students and parents who finally gathered for the awards ceremony followed by a social hour spent enjoying a variety of ethnic desserts and beverages.

Award Ceremony emcees Melissa Fleming and Adam David welcomed everyone to the ceremony before introducing world languages academic coordinator Melanie Poudrier.

Ms. Poudrier presented certificates to the new inductees into the Spanish and French Honor Societies. Inducted into La Sociedad Honoraria Hispanica were Melissa Fleming, Keith Jendza, Paul Lalli, and Selena Machia. Inducted into La Societe Honoraire De Francais were Kelly Carmody, Melanie Guillemette, Patricia Olson, and Rita Reshamwala.

Students honored for their work in world language classes and for their efforts during world language week included:

OUTSTANDING STUDENTS

SPANISH 1

HIGHEST AVERAGE: Jessica Briotta, Christina Gregory, Wendy Hughes, Dennis Nelson, Jennifer Niedziela, Nick Penna, Joseph Halpy, Jennifer Rendrick.

MOST IMPROVED: Heather Jensen, Jennifer Stacy, Christina Lavalley, Neal Miner, Robert Creanza, Michael Schmidt, Angela Whitney.

SPANISH 2

ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE

Melissa Crough, Diane Abdala, Kimberly Bosini, Jason Flood, Rebecca Howard, Lisa Marsh, Jennifer McGuire, Roberta Przybyla, Alyson Reid, Shelly Rose, Christina Januska, Mario Santillo, Christopher Rousseau.

Kenneth Smyth, Angela Whitney, Erik Bodurtha, Jason Cook, Jill DeMarco, Erin Hanley, Alison Jackobek, Kelly Knowlton, Sarah Nacewicz,



CELEBRATING WORLD CULTURE NIGHT at Agawam High last month included, from left - Melissa Fleming, Adam David, Paul Lalli, Melissa Fleming (again), Selena Machia, and Rita Reshamwala. Advertiser News photos by Jack Devine.



AGAWAM HIGH SCHOOL foreign language students are pictured at World Culture Night at the school last month. Advertiser News photo by Jack Devine.

Robert Bousquet, Patty Zerra, Crystal Rivers.

SPANISH 3

ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE

Heidi Benton, Jennifer Smist, Tracy Butler, Angela Tassinari, Seema Gada, Michele Ingalls, Bradford Tilden, Amy Powell, Katia Prolongeau, Elizabeth McGrew, Kevin Cornwell, Todd Godfrey, Amy Mastrolanni, Jennifer Zerra.

SPANISH 4

ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE

Keith Jendza, Paul Lalli, Kristine Modzelesky, Jill Pavelcsyk.

SPANISH 5

HIGHEST AVERAGE: Selena Machia, Melissa Fleming.

MOST IMPROVED: Jim Baldyga

FRENCH 1

HIGHEST AVERAGE: Brian Rondeau

MOST IMPROVED: James Dziedzina

FRENCH 2

HIGHEST AVERAGE: Leila Mounemneh

MOST IMPROVED: Emily Tampone

FRENCH 3

HIGHEST AVERAGE: Daryl St. Laurent

MOST IMPROVED: Michelle Kowalewski

FRENCH 4

HIGHEST AVERAGE: Patty Olson

MOST IMPROVED: Melanie Guillemette

ITALIAN 1

HIGHEST AVERAGE: Katia Prolongeau, Vanessa Galuzza.

MOST IMPROVED: Jeremy Brosseau, Angela Gontczaruk.

ITALIAN 2

HIGHEST AVERAGE: Catherine Willis

MOST IMPROVED: Jenny Waterman

ITALIAN 3

HIGHEST AVERAGE: Michael Freeman

MOST IMPROVED: Nicolas Christy

ITALIAN 4

ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE

Amy Wisniewski, Nancy Cuccovia.

PROJECT WINNERS 1996

SLOGAN: Alyson Reid

POSTER: Kristin Pisano. **Honorable Mention:** Faith Ackerman, Jessica Briotta, Eric Clark, Kate Day, Brian Rondeau.

TRAVEL BROCHURE: Danielle Bourdeau, Tami Hutchinson. **Honorable Mention:** Pia Bertone-Gross, John Cordis, Charles Denison, Trisha Fiorini, John Szymczyk, Patty Zerra.

POETRY: Lisa Cassanelli. **Honorable Mention:** Chrisy Aguinaga, Jenn Kratovil.

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Dinosaur Program...



THE "FUN WITH SCIENCE" Dinosaur Program at Robinson Park School shows student Andrew Dawson holding a prehistoric bug while speaker Paulette Morin looks on.

Advertiser News photo by Jack Devine.

Rep. Keenan Says U. PLAN Enrollment Kits Are Still Available

Enrollment kits for the U. PLAN, The Massachusetts College Savings Program, are available from the district office of Representative Daniel F. Keenan. The U. PLAN is the state-sponsored college savings program that enables families to lock in tomorrow's tuition at today's rates at 75 participating colleges and universities in Massachusetts.

Under the U. PLAN, families can either make a lump-sum purchase with a minimum of \$300 per year or establish a monthly installment plan for as little as \$25 per month. The U. PLAN offers competitive rates of return compared with other savings alternatives. Moreover, the U. PLAN provides a guarantee that other savings plans cannot—tomorrow's tuition at today's prices.

The U. PLAN is administered by the Massachusetts Educational Financing Authority (MEFA) on behalf of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and participating public and private colleges and universities.

The program is available exclusively at Fleet Bank. The two-month enrollment period began March 1, 1996 and runs through April 30, 1996.

Anyone interested in receiving the free packet is asked to stop by Representative Keenan's district office at 549 Springfield Street in Agawam. Quantities are limited and are available on a first come, first served basis.

For further information, contact the district office at (413) 786-4545 or call 1-800-449-MEFA or visit any Fleet Bank branch.



AHS Guidance...

by Judith Cohen
Acting Director
AHS Guidance Dept.

Three "Fearful" Words!!!

GRADES! WARNINGS! TESTS! These three words often make a youngster shiver with fear.

For certain students, these words conjure up a sense of achievement: the grades were great, the tests were aced, and no warnings were received. However, for other students, those three words fill them with dread.

Take Jane, for instance. She studies and studies and naturally feels she knows the material. Well, the test comes and she gets nervous and flustered. Needless to say, she does not do well on the test. Her parents become upset with her and wonder why she has not studied harder.

Then, there is Bill. The warnings come out and he receives three. He chooses not to bring them home because he knows his parents will be unhappy, and the last thing he needs is to be grounded! But, the guidance counselor calls home and his folks are informed. His fears become real; he is grounded.

These are fictitious accounts, but they are based on fact.

Unfortunately, as you can see, tests can be threatening for many kids and, therefore, the results are not a true indication of a youngster's ability. What to do? Talk to your child. Ascertain what the problem is.

If it is test anxiety, ferret out the reason and help the youngster to deal with it. He/she should know that no one is perfect, that we all make mistakes, and that all you want is for him/her to try his/her best.

Suggest that he/she reviews the test material with you or perhaps in a study group with a bunch of peers who can ask each other questions. Remind him/her that the teacher is available for extra help.

Sometimes a person thinks he/she knows the material, but really hasn't learned it. This comes

SEE AHS GUIDANCE - Page 41...

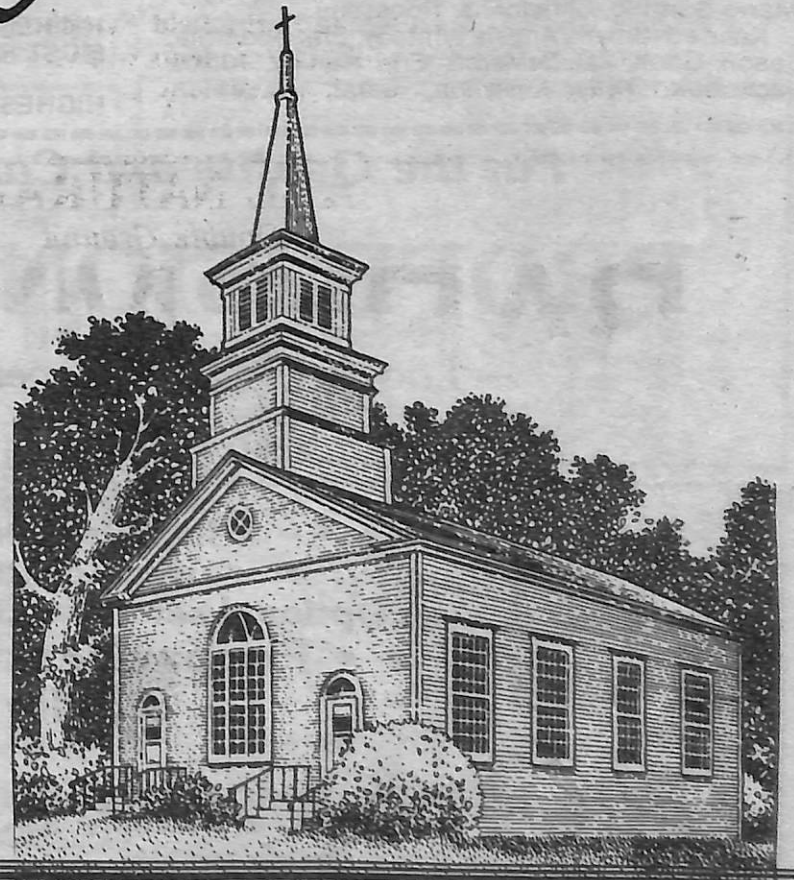
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Springfield Symphony In The Schools...



CORNELIA CORNELISSEN from the Springfield Symphony Orchestra gives a few tips to Granger School student **Aaron Helfand** when she and some of her colleagues visited the school on March 22nd. Advertiser News photo by Jack Devine.



THE BRASS QUINTET from the Springfield Symphony Orchestra shows their stuff to fourth graders at Granger School. The students will visit the Symphony this month for the Annual Youth Concert. Advertiser News photo by Jack Devine.

AHS GUIDANCE - from Page 40...

out if you spot quiz your child. If the answers to your questions are not spouted immediately, then the child has not mastered the material. He/she should go back and study harder.

To learn material, three r's are important to remember. They are **READ, RECITE, and REVIEW.**

Read the material, take notes on it, recite aloud or to yourself important points, and then each day, you should constantly review so you do not forget what you have learned. Continue your review, even as you add more material.

At times, your child may be in a class that is too difficult, or perhaps there are emotional problems that are precluding him/her to learn, to concentrate, and to perform.

The best thing to do when grades are poor, warnings are many, or tests are not going well is to talk to your child, then contact your child's guidance counselor and come into school and meet with your child, the counselor, and the concerned teachers.

Together, the home and school will work to enable your child to succeed.

GUIDANCE BULLETIN

COLLEGE ACCEPTANCES - Congratulations!

James Baldyga, Ithaca, Hartwick; **John Higgins**, Providence College; **Tim Drenzek**, U. Mass; **Adrienne O'Quinn**, Providence Hospital, Fairfield; **Alex Carson**, Rochester Institute of Technology; **Justin Stoddard**, HCC; **Peter Christopher**, STCC; **Kelly Stoddard**, University of Vermont; **Chris Chechile**, Springfield College; **Jennifer Kratovil**, Hartwick, Bay Path, Grinnell, Westfield; **Laura Rapa**, Westfield State; **Rosemarie Oppedisano**, Emerson.

Derek Parker, WNEC, Westfield State; **Michael Perry**, St. Anselm's; **Tracie Jacapraro**, Salem State; **Jamie Thomas**, Westfield St., UMass, U. of Denver; **John Higgins**, Boston College; **Coleen Rago**, HCC, STCC; **Kerri Lawrence**, Assumption; **Melissa Murphy**, Hartwick; **Elizabeth McGrew**, George Washington University; **Jamie Scherban**, University of Vermont, Springfield College; **Jennifer Clarke**, Barry; **Laura Beauchemin**, Westfield State, HCC.

SCHOLARSHIPS - See your counselor for more information.

Woronoco Savings Bank Scholarship - One \$500 scholarship will be awarded to an Agawam High School student based on need, scholarship, and an essay. Deadline: April 22, 1996.

William D. Mullins Memorial Scholarship - Three \$1,000 scholarships will be awarded to deserving high school seniors from Hampden County who have been accepted at an accredited institution of higher education. The selection committee's primary emphasis will be based upon applicant's achievements and personal characteristics. Deadline: May 15, 1996.

National Association of Insurance Women Scholarship - Four \$500 scholarships will be awarded to individuals who are continuing their education in any field. Deadline: April 20, 1996.

Western Mass. Baseball Umpires Assoc. Scholarship - Open to participants in Western Mass. high school baseball. This scholarship will be awarded on the basis of scholastic achievement, sportsmanship, citizenship, courage, leadership, and athletic achievement in high school baseball. Deadline: May 15, 1996.

OPEN HOUSES - See your counselor for more information.

Mass. Maritime Academy - April 27th.
St. Elizabeth's Hospital School of Nursing - April 17th.

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GIRL SCOUTS

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On Monday, January 22nd, Daisy Troop No. 562 from Phelps School celebrated their Investiture. The girls sang songs and recited the Girl Scout Promise. Many parents attended and enjoyed the girls' presentation.

The month of February was spent on service projects. The girls made Valentine's Day cards for the men at the Holyoke Soldiers Home and the VA Hospital. The Scouts are also collecting new and used toys for the Pediatric Department at Baystate Medical Center.

Brownie Troop No. 580 had their Investiture Ceremony on February 25, 1996. The Scouts received their Girl Scout pins and were officially welcomed into scouting.

Each girl lit a candle after reciting a law that they had studied during previous meetings. In addition, each Scout made a booklet showing what the laws meant to them.

The girls also received their first two Try-Its, "Good Food" and "Music." A "Pot Luck" supper was held after the ceremony with all the Scouts' families, including a huge cake to celebrate such a special occasion.

Brooke Cashman Is Inducted Into Internat'l Honor Soc.

Brooke Cashman, a freshman at Mount Ida College in Newton Centre, MA, was inducted into the Phi Theta Kappa International Honor Society, Xi Nu Chapter.

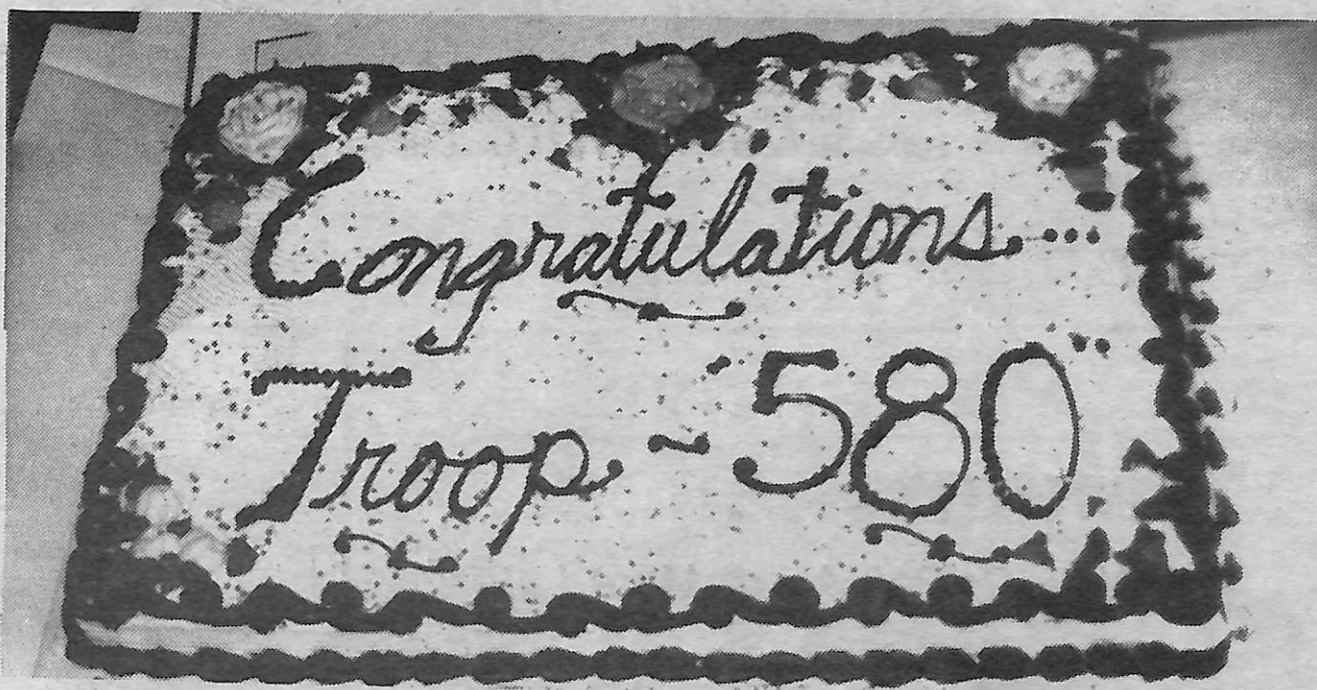
Cashman, a resident of Agawam, is enrolled in the canine science program.

Phi Theta Kappa recognizes outstanding academic achievements and community service among students studying for an associate degree. Seventy-three students were inducted at Mount Ida College's ceremony held February 25, 1996.

The Mount Ida College chapter was chartered in 1966 and has inducted over 900 students since that time.



IN TOP PHOTO, Girl Scouts from Brownie Troop 580 at their Investiture Ceremony; IN PHOTO BELOW, this cake was served to celebrate the Investiture Ceremony for Brownie Troop 580.



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Agawam Schools' Weekly Lunch Menu

Monday, April 8th: Cheese pizza, seasoned green beans, chilled fruit cup, milk.

Tuesday, April 9th: Hamburg with gravy on whipped potatoes, seasoned mixed vegetables, bread & butter, chocolate brownie, milk.

Wednesday, April 10th: Spaghetti with meatsauce, tossed garden salad with spinach greens & dressing, Italian bread & butter, blueberry jello with topping or fruit cup, milk.

Thursday, April 11th: Oven-baked chicken nuggets, steamed rice Pilaf, seasoned peas & carrots, wheat bread & butter, peanut butter cookie or fruit cup, milk.

Friday, April 12th: Tuna salad sailboat, oven potato wedges with catsup, niblet corn, strawberry shortcake, milk. (Alternate: Fluffernutter sandwich.)

* **REMINDER:** Elementary lunch is \$1. Tickets must be purchased on Mondays for the week. Personal checks are accepted, payable to: The Agawam School Lunch.

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ADVERTISER NEWS

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Daisy Troop 561 Holds Investiture



GIRL SCOUTS in Daisy Troop 561 at their Investiture Ceremony. Back row - Megan Burke, Kimme Gohn, Christine Blanchard, Kristina Langone, and Diana Moore. Front row - Rachel LaGuercia, Sara Cardwell, Krystal Morace, Megan Tejada, and Katie Corliss.

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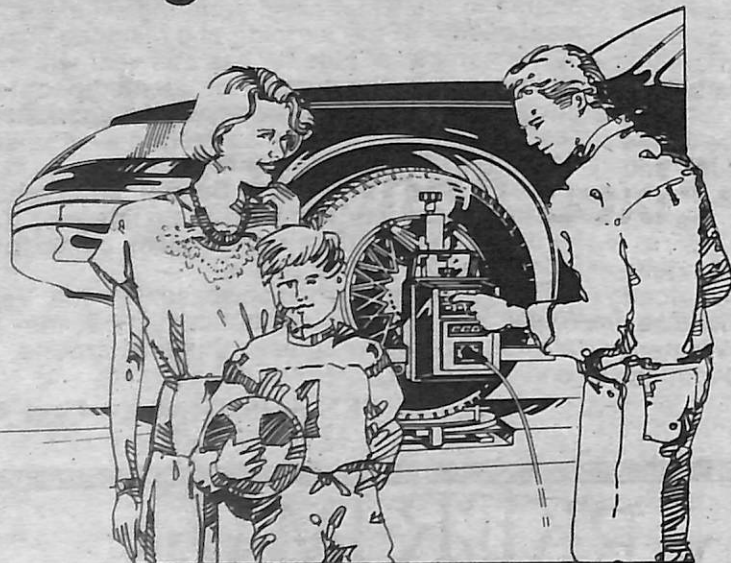
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National Division Girls 8-10 Regular Season Co-Winners

Front Row (L-R): Amanda Bruno, Gina Gessay, Katlyn LaValley, Jen Massotti, Julie Czuprinski, and Kristyn LaLiberte.

Back Row (L-R): Coach Bob Gessay, Sue Jenney, Jessica Hudson, Vicki Taylor, Nicki Gessay, Catlyn Foley, and Coach Jim Foley.



Sports

AHS SPRING SPORTS PREVIEW

Brownies Once Again Poised For Softball Title

by Dave Rollins
Sports Editor

It didn't get much better than last season for the Agawam girls' softball team.

They went 22-2, won the Valley Wheel and Western Mass. Division I title, and went all the way to the state finals, where they lost a 2-1 nailbiter to Bishop Fenwick, the Eastern Mass. champion.

Can they match that performance? Coach Deb Lickley thinks they just might do it all over again. "We'll be a slightly different team this year, though," she said.

By that, she means more speed, which should enable them to bunt more and be effective at it. "Bunting is something every good softball team should have in their arsenal," she noted.

It will start with pitching. She has two good ones. Outstanding senior **Laura Rapa** will get the bulk of the work. But Lickley will occasionally give her a rest and let talented **Danielle Curley** take the mound. "That way, Laura can keep her arm from getting tired," the coach said. She noted that Rapa is even more focused this season.

Senior **Courtne Hyland** will once again be behind the plate. She's a captain and the backbone of the club. Hyland has the whole field in front of her, which fits nicely with her take charge personality, according to Lickley.

The designated hitter duties will fall to senior **Steph Biza**. "She'll get a good opportunity to contribute this season," Lickley observed. "We feel she can hit."

Erica Pratt, another senior and returning veteran, will be in left and hit from the number two spot because, according to Lickley, "she's a fine bunter."

Her second baseman is another veteran, **Becky Wing**. "Becky is all hustle. She just has to hit the ball a bit more," the coach said.

Those five seniors, along with Curley, should give the team a strong nucleus.

Strong Supporting Cast

The supporting cast has the coach smiling as well. Junior **Melissa Trole** will be at first. Trole's increase in her offensive output in training camp has been a nice surprise for the coaching staff.

Shortstop will be in the capable hands, glove, and bat of sophomore **Kristen Patterson**, who is arguably the best girls' player at that position in Western Mass. "She just has to challenge herself. Kristen has a natural instinct for the game. There will be no red light for her on the base paths. I'm just going to let her run wild on the basis of those instincts," the coach smiled.

She expects the hot corner to be shared by junior **Amber Conte** and **Jeanne O'Neill**.

Sophomore **Steph Fleming**, who has good speed, according to Lickley, will be in centerfield.

And rightfield will be patrolled by sophomore soccer and ice hockey player **Amy Mastrolanni**, who has impressed the staff with her strong arm.

SEE GIRLS' SOFTBALL - Page 45...

Smith Says AHS Baseball Is A Threat To Take League Title

by Dave Rollins
Sports Editor

If optimism was legal tender, then this year's edition of the Agawam High boys' baseball team would be in a rarified tax bracket.

"We should be in every game," second year Coach **Boo Smith** said with obvious confidence. "We're going to manufacture runs, which was something we failed to do last year. We also have the ability to play defense this season," Boo noted, looking back on the just completed training camp.

Then he added, "We're going to leave it all on the field. There will be no regrets."

Boo knows what he's talking about. A bunch of returning seniors, spiced up by some competent and eager underclassmen back from last year's 9-11 club (which failed to make the Division I playoffs from the Valley Wheel), have seen to that.

"We should win the Wheel this season," he said.

It starts with his pitching staff. **Jon Jacobsen**, the talented senior wrestler who won seven of their nine games a year ago, will be his number one man. The number two guy will be another senior, **Jaime Sherban**. After that, Boo has seven kids who are good enough to be the third starter in the rotation. Perhaps the top prospect among them is junior **Jay Malone**, who will be the regular leftfielder.

Chris Chechile, another senior and a natural leader, will handle the catching duties. "Chris is as tough as they come," Boo notes. "You have to have that quality to play the position."

Depth At First Base

The team has depth at first base. **Jacobsen** will be the starter when he's not pitching. **Dan Pellegrino**, a senior, will play there when **Jacobsen** has mound duties. Junior **Bryan Menard**, a football standout, will also get time there. "Dan has the better glove. Bryan can hit the heck out of the ball," the coach observed. He'll use **Menard** as his designated hitter.

Mike Domaingue has his usual second base job sewn up. According to Boo, **Domaingue** has a positive attitude this year. He'll be the leadoff hitter. "Mike is making contact. He had maybe three hits all last season. He had three in our scrimmage with Southwick," Boo said, sounding pleased. Senior soccer and basketball star **Todd Jorgensen** is battling sophomore **Mike Wing** for the shortstop position. Right now, Boo says he's leaning towards the veteran senior.

SEE AHS BASEBALL - Page 45...

1996 May Be Tale Of Two Tracks For Agawam High Girls & Boys

by Dave Rollins
Sports Editor

Agawam High girls' track Coach **Dean Vecchiarelli** is a happy man these days. The reason - 63 competitors came out for his team this year, the most he's ever greeted for training camp.

Last year, they went 7-2 in the Valley League. They have a good crop of talented senior and junior veterans back this time out.

They'll feature senior **Sue DeFilipi** in the high jump and the 100- and 300-meter hurdles. **Vec** notes that she is a two-year captain and came in second in last year's Western Mass. Tournament.

Another senior and captain, **Kara McDade**, is a sprinter. She also runs the 4x100 relay.

The top seniors in the field events will be **Jamie Thomas** in the shotput and the discus, and another senior captain, **Melissa Fleming**, in the shotput and discus. They'll be joined in the put and discus by **Jen VanGys**.

The juniors should figure in, including **Danielle DeStefano**, who is a sprinter, relay runner, long and triple jumper. The javeline will be launched by **Kelly Grover**, a fourth place finisher in Western Mass. last year. **Sara Cote** runs the 800-meters. **Cindy Alfano** is a distance specialist.

Vec also singled out 400-meter runner **Jen Stratton** and gymnastics star **Melanie DeMastrie** in the long jump and javelin.

A sophomore who has impressed is **Lonnie DeLuca** in the 200- and 400-meter sprints.

Freshman **Barbara Maloni** (of basketball fame) looks strong in the two-mile run.

The coach feels they are as strong as any team around in the weight and sprinting events and at least decent in the jumping and distance venues.

The number of kids he has this year will mean an increase in the number of talented people on the team, which should bode well for another successful campaign. He also feels new Assistant Coach **Dan Pryce** will help them out.

They'll have battles with Central, Minnechaug, Cathedral, and Northampton again this year. Then he mentioned that their only losses came to the Falcons and the Blue Devils.

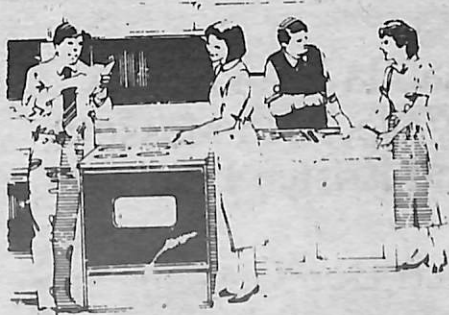
They finished fifth last season in the Valley Wheel. **Vec** is cautiously optimistic that they can move up one or two places this time around.

SEE AHS TRACK - Page 45...

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AHS BASEBALL - from Page 44...

Senior **Dom Pisano** will be back at third base. **Jay Pelloquin** will be in rightfield. And perhaps the most improved player on the squad, senior **Jim Baldyga**, will patrol center. Boo explained why Baldyga has improved.

"In the off-season, some of the kids set-up a batting cage at Jay Malone's house. Jimmy would show up early in the morning and stay for hours. When school started, he was there before classes. When school was over, he was back. The kids worked out with Lyle Mouton, who hits for the Chicago White Sox, right behind Frank Thomas."

A Change in Coaching Style

Boo felt he coached with too much predictability last season. "We'll still be fundamentally sound. But we won't be fighting from behind all the time, so that means we can get creative with the hit and run, stealing base, and bunting." He feels the team has the speed to execute those plays.

They opened up at home against Longmeadow on April 4th, a team that beat them last year in extra innings on opening day over there.

Boo feels their big rivals will be Cathedral, Central, Comp, and Holyoke in the Wheel. Westfield will again be a tough one in Division I.

"We have 12 games before we begin league competition, so we should know pretty much where we stand by then," Boo said.

AHS TRACK - from Page 44...

It was a disappointing spring in 1995 for the Agawam High boys' track team. They went 1-7 in the Valley Wheel, despite some excellent individual performances.

This year, 42 athletes came out for the team, which is good, but not great, according to Coach Dan Beavis.

Some top performers for him include junior **Phil McGeoghan**, last year's leading point-getter. He's a high jumper who was good enough to go to the states last season.

Senior co-captain **Jeff Rousseau** is a fine middle distance man and two-miler. Beavis calls Rousseau one of the best athletes on the team.

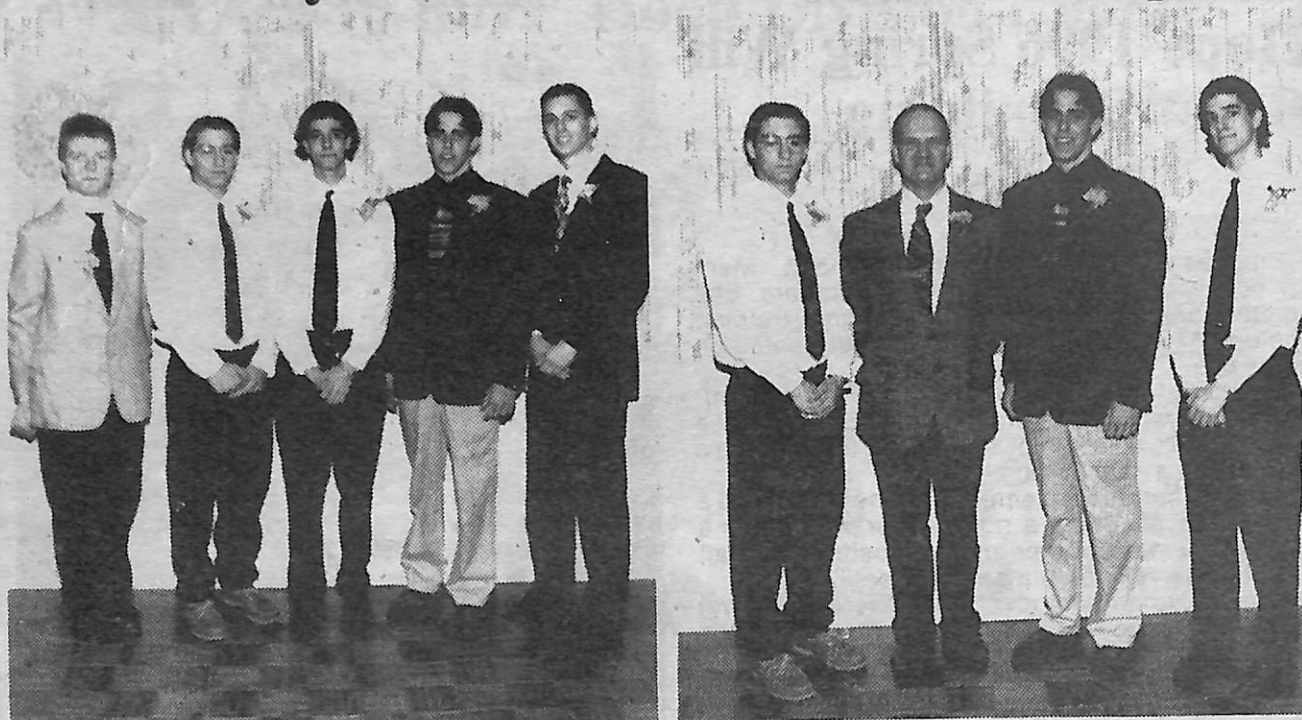
The coach expects a lot out of senior **Justin Casinghino** in the shotput and discus. If you'd gone up to any basketball games during the winter, you were likely to see Casinghino playing the National Anthem on his saxophone before the contest. "Justin worked on the weights during the off-season to build his upper body," according to the coach.

GIRLS' SOFTBALL - from Page 44...

Their big battles will involve Amherst, West Side, and Westfield. "But everyone will be out to knock us off because of what we did last year. On our menu will be hard work and a philosophy of taking it one game at a time," Lickley admitted.

They open the season next Wednesday at Ludlow.

For all the hometown news, you turn our pages every week...
ADVERTISER NEWS

AHS Boys' Swimmers Gather For Banquet

MEMBERS OF THE AGAWAM HIGH boys' varsity swim team gathered recently for their annual banquet at Alexander's Restaurant. From left - Class of 1996 members - Matt Grych, Keith Paro, Jon David, Mike Robinson, and Stephen Bennett. IN PHOTO RIGHT pictured are Captain Keith Paro, Coach Dave Smith, Captain Mike Robinson, and Captain Jon David. Advertiser News photos by Jack Devine.

Girls' Lacrosse Reaches Status Of Varsity Sport At Agawam High

by Dave Rollins
Sports Editor

Lacrosse is the oldest organized sport in America. It's a relatively new sport for both the boys and the girls at Agawam High School, where it has been played on a club level.

The girls took up lacrosse three years ago. They worked hard, played hard, and became successful. Their efforts were rewarded. This season, they were upgraded to a varsity sport.

The basic difference between a club sport and a varsity sport is recognition by the Massachusetts Interscholastic Athletic Association. Club sports aren't recognized; thus, they have no post-season championship competition or funding from their schools. Those two facts by themselves tend to make club sports anonymous and broke.

The bump-up to varsity status is like night and day. The Agawam High girls' team will play in a league with other Western Mass. varsity lacrosse clubs, including Amherst, South Hadley, Westfield, Northampton, Minnechaug, and powerhouse Longmeadow. Other schools in Massachusetts also carry girls' lacrosse. All the teams in the state are incorporated into one division.

There is another reason why the Agawam girls were a club lacrosse team for three years. Massachusetts was the only state which required the girls to wear helmets. At one time, they had no head protection. It all changed some time ago when a girl from the eastern part of the Commonwealth suffered a serious eye injury after being hit by the ball (thus, the helmet rule).

Sanctioning bodies around the country don't recognize girls' lacrosse as a varsity sport unless they dump the head gear. The state overturned the rule. The Brownie girls benefited from that action.

They will now wear only goggles.

Some folks might find that hard to believe. Those are the ones who have watched boys' lacrosse. Brownie girls' lacrosse Coach Cindy Grieve notes that the only similarities between the boys' and the girls' game are the sticks and the ball. Girls' competition is more disciplined; not like the free-for-all, hockey-style boys tend to play.

Any Kid Can Play

She also noted that it's a sport that is becoming more popular among girls because just about any kid can play it. "There are positions on the field that require a lot of running and stick-handling. And there are positions where you don't have to run much, just defend your area."

Last season, they finished up with a 13-1 club record. That fact didn't hurt in the decision to go the varsity route.

Grieve notes that by becoming a varsity team, there will be changes. "The schedules and the competition level won't change all that much, but the coaching will."

Grieve admitted when she started out coaching the Brownies three years ago, she had no experience. But she watched, learned, and became good at the job as time went on. She's now one of those experienced coaches.

Her outlook for this season is guarded. "We lost some key kids. Remember, most of my players started here as sophomores. They grew up with the sport at Agawam." Then she laughed, "I call them my original six sticks."

They have been in spring practice for a few weeks. The coach says it is still too early to get a firm read on this year's team.

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AHS Girls' Tennis Hope 1996 Spring Will Begin Rebuilding

by Dave Rollins
Sports Editor

Agawam High girls' tennis coach Mary Wolochowicz has a problem with numbers. She greeted only 14 players when spring training opened. At one time, she had as many as 30 on the team.

Such a situation makes it hard to set up your singles players and doubles teams. But she gave it an effort in an attempt to improve on the club's 2-12 record a season ago.

Kirsten Decoteau, a senior, will most likely be a singles player. She's a righthander who plays a baseline game. Another singles position will fall to Betsy Gervais, also a senior baseliner.

Senior exchange student Katia Prolongeau will play singles as well. She hits well from the baseline, according to the coach.

Her top doubles team will be made up of a couple friends, Selena Machia and Kelly Stoddard, who learned the game together.

Three newcomers will get a chance. Sophomore Maureen Dimock, junior Magumi Isogai (a swimmer and a good athlete, according to the coach), and sophomore Courtney Locke will fill in at different spots.

"Unfortunately, we have no serve and volleyers, which will hurt us. But we do have speed and court intelligence, which will help," Wolochowicz said hopefully.

They meet some traditionally tough teams this season, including Amherst, Longmeadow, and Ludlow. Their first contest will be at home on April 10th against Amherst at 3:15.

Crankers Cars AT Olde Town Bagel Starting April 4th

Starting Thursday, April 4th, and continuing through the summer, Olde Town Bagel (located at 719 Main Street, Agawam) and the "CRANKERS" Antique Car Club will hold a weekly "Cruise Night" every Thursday evening at 6:00 p.m.

Two trophies will be awarded each week for Best Of Show, and the judging of the cars will be by the car owners that attend each week.

Food and beverages will be available, and 50's music will be provided for your entertainment.

Everyone is invited to show their Antique, Classic, Special Interest, Street Rod, or Vintage Car and enjoy this weekly event in the center of Agawam.

AHS Boys' Skiing Gather At Banquet



MEMBERS OF THE AGAWAM HIGH boys' ski team recently completed one of the most successful seasons in the school's history. The team held its annual banquet and among those feted were (from left) Coach Glen Olson, team captain Andy Markowski, and graduating seniors Daniel Viens, B.J. Cortis, and Andy Markowski. Advertiser News photos by Jack Devine.

Crankers Antique Car Club Of Agawam To Hold 5th Annual Spring Poker Run

On Sunday, April 14th, the "CRANKERS" Antique Car Club of Agawam will hold its Fifth Annual Spring Poker Run.

The Poker Run will start at EB's Restaurant, 385 Walnut Street Extension, Agawam, with registration from 8:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. We will travel through surrounding towns and back to EB's Restaurant for an "All You Can Eat Chicken and Spaghetti Dinner."

Everyone with an Antique, Classic, Special In-

terest, Street Rod, or Vintage Car is invited to join us for a day of fun and good food. Dinner will be served family style at 12:30 p.m.

Trophies will be awarded for Best Poker Hand, Best Time, and Best Mileage Guess.

Dinner tickets are \$8.50 per person; send your check to "CRANKERS" Antique Car Club, P.O. Box 172, Agawam, MA 01001.

For more information and reservations, call (413) 786-0014.

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Sportsmen's Corner

—By Bill Chiba—
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To Ric, The Agawam Advertiser staff, and all of Bill's friends and faithful readers:

To just say "Thank You" to everyone for all of your caring thoughts and prayers seem like a very small way to let you all know how very much it was appreciated by Bill and all of his family these last few months.

I found this poem and I believe if Bill could have a last word with us, it would be pretty much along these thoughts expressed in the poem.

Don't grieve for me
For now I am free.
I'm following the path
God laid for me. I took his hand
when I heard Him call, I turned my
back and left it all. I could not
stay another day, To laugh, to love,
to work or play. Tasks left undone
must stay that way, I found
that place at close of day. If my
parting has left a void, then fill
it with remembered joy. A friend-
ship shared, a laugh, a kiss, oh
yes these things I, too, will miss.
Be not burdened with times of sorrow.
I wish you the sunshine of tomorrow.
My life's been full, I savored much,
Good friends, good times, of loved ones
touched. Perhaps my time seemed
all too brief, Don't lengthen it now
with undue grief. Lift up your
heart and share with me, God
wanted me now, He set me free.

Games & Lanes Indoor Soccer Leagues (Standings As Of 3-31)

U-11 GIRLS		W	L	T	P
* East Longmeadow		6	1	0	12
* West Springfield Blue		5	1	0	10
Agawam Tigers		3	3	0	6
West Springfield White		3	4	0	6
Our Lady Of Hope		0	7	0	0

U-10 GIRLS		W	L	T	P
* Holyoke		6	0	1	13
* Northampton		4	2	1	9
* Ludlow Strike Force		4	3	0	8
* Lent's Landscaping		3	3	1	7
Westfield Breeze		2	4	1	5
Ludlow Raptors		0	7	0	0

U-9 BOYS		W	L	T	P
* Agawam Attack		5	0	1	11
* Holyoke D&S Plating		4	1	1	9
* Westfield		1	5	0	2
* East Longmeadow		1	5	0	2

U-17 BOYS HIGH SCHOOL DIVISION		W	L	T	P
** Holyoke Soccer Club		3	1	0	6
* Razors		2	2	0	4
* Bruno's		2	2	0	4
* Westfield		0	4	0	0

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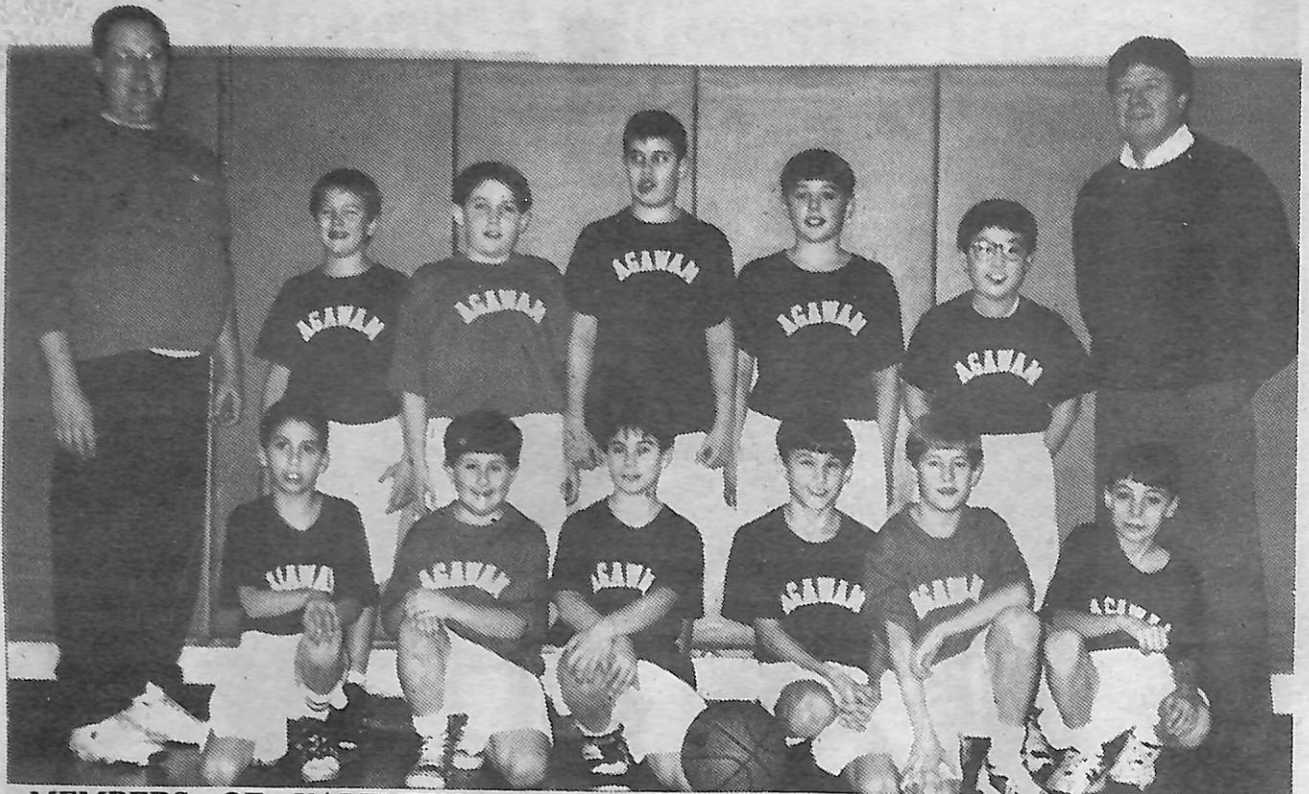
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AAA 8-10 Boys' Hoop Division Champs



MEMBERS OF VALENTI'S RESTAURANT, champs of the Agawam Athletic Association's Boys' 8-10 American Division (11-0 record). Team members are, standing, from left - Coach Larry Davis, Rusty Linder, Chris Davis, Mike Locke, Chris Hall, Christopher Martin, and Coach Peter Donah. Front row - Bryan Lane, Steven Donah, Phil Gildersleeve, Nick Gumlaw, Neil Donah, and Jeff Webb.



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Agawam Girls' Suburban Hoop Champs



TEAM MEMBERS of the girls' 7th/8th grade Suburban Hoop Champs (Division III) from Agawam. Back row, from left - Caitlyn Conte, Keegan Clark, Katie Pisano, Erin Dearing, and Lisa Bienia. Front row - Elizabeth Stieg, Emily Norris, Danielle Bachini, Laura Bucalo, and Kara Barnes. Missing: Katie Christian.

Fitness First Schedules Many Fun Programs For April

Get Motivated At Fitness First

Motivational Speaker Debbie Papagno will be speaking at Fitness First on Thursday, April 4th, at 7:00 p.m. Her topic will be a takeoff of her top-selling cassette tape, "The Driver's Seat ... Taking Control of Your Life."

Come hear Debbie's fresh ideas on how to take control of your life and motivate yourself for a more positive outlook. The admission is \$5 per person.

Call Fitness First at 786-1460 to register; seating is limited.

Nancy Dell To Speak At Fitness First

Nancy Dell will be speaking on "The Power of Herbs" at Fitness First on Tuesday, April 9th, at 7:00 p.m.

One-third of Americans turn to organic, complementary medicine. Science shows herbs can safely be used for headaches, PMS, colds, indigestion, stress, and energy. Learn to shop

Mother Nature's pharmacy!

There is a \$5 fee per person. Call Fitness First at 786-1460 to register; seating is limited.

Fitness First To Hold April Vacation Kamp

Fitness First will be holding its annual Kid's Kamp during the week of April 15th-19th. The kamp runs from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. each weekday and is open to any child between three and 10 years of age.

Activities include indoor and outdoor sports, games, swimming, arts and crafts, and (of course) exercise! The cost for a full week of kamp for members is \$90; for non-members, the cost is \$115 per child.

Applications are available by stopping by or calling Fitness First at 786-1460. Reserve your child's space now, as space is limited to the first 60 children.

(Early drop-off between 8:00 and 10:00 a.m. may be arranged for parents who need to get to work.)

Riverside Park Speedway's Unofficial Point Standings

(As Of March 30, 1996)

MODIFIEDS

Chris Kopeck	100
Reggie Ruggiero	92
Dave Berube	88
Ted Riggott	86
Rich Savary	86
Tom Jensen	78
Tony Papale	70
Bruce Batchelder	66
Eric LeClair	58
Eddy Spiers	56
Doug Meservey	48
Marty Leary	46
Ritchie Gallup	44
Renee Dupuis	42
Dan Avery	36

PRO STOCKS

Eddy Carroll	100
John Lobo	92
Jeff Connors	92
Scott Bouley	84
Bill Lauridsen	74
Jeff Horn	70
Jim Banfield	68
Ed Carroll	66
Tom Carey	66
Rich Vasseur	64
Doug D'Alessandro	58
Tom Fearn	54
Bennett Fuller	48
Barry Gray	46
Craig St. Germaine	42

LATE MODELS

Todd Owen	94
Ted Chalmers	92
Chuck Docherty	90
Glenn Griswold	88
Gee Perry	84
Chris Wenzel	80
Joe Czarnecki	72
Rob Valerio	70
Wayne Coury	68
Joe Rzeszutek	64
Skip Breunia	58
Brian Merchant	52
Bobby Ermark	50
E.J. Legacy	50
O.H. Pelc	44

STRICTLY STOCKS

Kris Valerio	92
Patrick Townsend	92
Herb Carlon	84
James Sommer	80
Scott Neleber	78
Dennis Charette	78
Mike Salmond	76
Jon Waterhouse	70
Glen Reilly	62
Dennis Brilla	58
Dennis Sporbett	54
Ed Charette	50
Todd Malvezzi	44
Brian Huard	44
Keith Miller	44

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Karma Plus	\$63.00	\$53.55	\$43.55

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Riverside Volunteers Raise Funds For Caruso Trust Fund

Race fans and race competitors have their own unique way of taking care of one another.

In mid-January, the race fraternity was shocked by the loss of one of its rising talents—Dave Caruso had died of a heart condition at the age of 29. No one could believe the terrible news.

By mid-February, Riverside Speedway's Ben Dodge and a group of concerned speedway volunteers had come up with a special trust fund in Dave's honor. This money would be placed in a trust for Dave's nephews, Jeff and Keith Caruso.

The end result was \$663 to the Caruso Trust from the fans and competitors at Riverside Speedway.

The unique fundraiser included Herb Carlon issuing a special commemorative decal to be placed on all the cars. And all the profits (after expenses) from the sale of the program from the season opener would be distributed to the Caruso Trust Fund. Usually this money would go into the car owners' and drivers' point fund.

It was 18 degrees on Saturday, March 23rd, but 4,975 race fans came out for the "Big Chill" in honor of Dave Caruso.

Still, the volunteer workers of Riverside Speedway were the people who made the difference. Even though they were disappointed in the amount, it was through their support that the program raised the \$663.

The volunteer fundraisers included Edie Dodge; Pat and Al Chilson; Trish Calkins; Bob Stromberg; Bruce Adams; Deb Rowley; Herb, Patty, and Rich Carlon; and the friends and family of Dave Caruso.

A check for \$663 was issued to the Trust Fund on Monday, March 25th, in Sutton, MA. The Caruso family would like to thank everyone for being so supportive. Because of this Trust Fund, Dave Caruso will never be forgotten.

Agawam Police Asso. Coordinating Softball Challenge Game

The Agawam Police Association, Inc. is coordinating a softball challenge game vs. the "spaceman" of the Red Sox—Bill Lee and his touring sports celebrities.

The Association will be publishing a souvenir program and calendar to be distributed free of charge at the game and throughout the community. The game will be held on May 17th at 6:00 p.m. at the Agawam High School.

Telephone calls are being made to local businesses and residents requesting their support through listings in the program along with ticket sales for the games. Funds received from the game and program ads go towards the worthwhile programs and organizations the Police Association supports.

If there are any questions regarding our community effort, please do not hesitate to call Ron Brown at the Agawam Police Association at 786-4767. We thank you for your past and continued support.

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A large assortment of vendors is wanted. Ranging from crafts, collectable, antiques, household goods, clothing, baby items, toys, tools, sport cards, cars, and recreational vehicles. If you have a need, we have a spot for you. Will be held in heated hall, outdoor pavilion, booths, parking lot, and lawn. Pricing from 15 to 25 cents per sq. ft.

Will be held at the Polish American Club of Agawam, Inc., 139 Southwick St., Feeding Hills, MA 01030. On April 27 & 28 from 9 AM to 5 PM.

For more information/application call Don, (413) 786-6124.

Kopec & Eddy Carroll Repeat As Winners At Riverside Racing

The "Dynamic Duo" of Chris Kopec and Eddy Carroll might have won the first two events of the 1996 season at Riverside Park Speedway, but just eight points separate the first- and second-place positions in the speedway's Winston Point Battle for 1996.

With everyone's interest shifting to points and the new Winston Regional/National point system, Riverside is going to be the focus of the New England region. The spring races will give drivers the home track advantage, based on the number of events run at Riverside Speedway.

Chris Kopec has won the first two events in the Winston four-type Modified division. He has a perfect 100 points. Still, Reggie Ruggiero has a third and third with 92 points total (just eight points behind Kopec). Dave Berube, one of Riverside's most consistent drivers, sits in third with 88 points with an eighth- and second-place finish. Ted Riggott is tied for fourth with Rich Savary at 86 points each. Sixth through 10th is just as close, with Tom Jensen (78), Tony Papale (70), Bruce Batchelder (66), Eric LeClair (56), and Ed Spiers (56).

Eddy Carroll is just as consistent in the Pro Stocks with two wins—a perfect 100 points. Still, John Lobo is right there with a second-place finish and a fourth, and he's tied with Jeff Connors at 92 points. Scott Bouley is fourth at (84 points), thanks to his third- seventh-place finishes. Bill Lauridsen rounds out the top five with 74. Sixth through 10th are Jeff Horn (70), Jim

Banfield (68), Ed Carroll (66), Tom Carey (66), and Rich Vasseur (64).

Todd Owen, last year's "Rookie of the Year" winner, has just a two-point lead (94-92) over 30-year veteran Ted Chalmers in the Late Models; Owen has finished third and second in this division, and Chalmers earned a second and fourth. In third place is Chuck Docherty with 90 points (a fourth and third), followed by opening night's winner, Glenn Griswold (88), who finished seventh on night number two. Defending Champion Gee Perry is fifth (84) with two fifth-place finishes. Sixth through 10th are night number two winner Chris Wenzel (80), Joe Czarnecki (72), Rob Valerio (70), Wayne Coury (68), and Joe Rzeszutek (64).

It's a tie for the lead in the Strictly Stocks due to a disqualification. Kris Valerio and Patrick Townsend are up front with 92 apiece, followed by Herb Carlon (84), Jim Sommer (80), and Scott Neleber (78). Rounding out the top 10 are Dennis Charette (78), Mike Salmond (76), Jon Waterhouse (70), Glen Reilly (62), and Dennis Brilla (58).

Every Saturday night at 6:00 p.m., the point battle heats up at Riverside Park Speedway. The four-type Modifieds, Pro Stocks, Late Models, and Strictly Stocks are always preparing for a shot at the title.

For a free color schedule, brochure, poster, etc., write to Riverside Park Speedway, Box 307, Agawam, MA 01001, or call (413) 786-9300.

Please remember our deadline is each Tuesday at noon.

Emily Dreyer Is On Springfield College's Varsity Softball Team

Emily Dreyer, a resident of Feeding Hills and a graduate of MacDuffie School in Springfield, is a freshman outfielder who is among those team players who are making their varsity debuts this spring for Springfield College's softball team.

Springfield was ranked sixth in the pre-season NCAA Division III Northeast Region poll behind Ithaca, North Adams State, Western Connecticut, Tufts, and Bridgewater State.

This is Springfield's 33rd season of softball. The team's all-time record is 452-345 for a 56.7 winning percentage.

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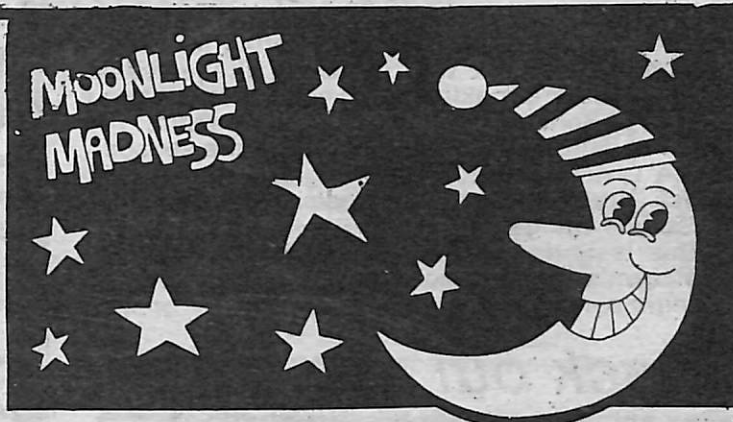
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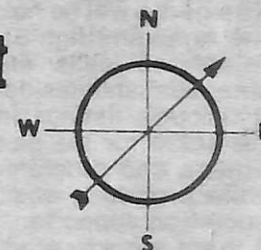
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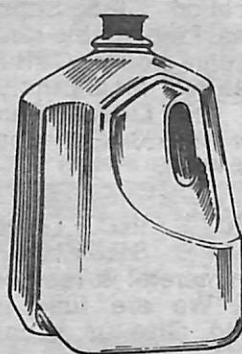


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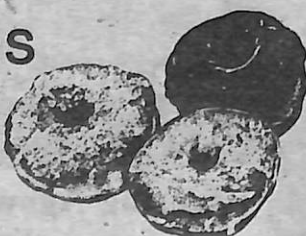
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